



November 6, 2025

MEMORANDUM

To: Directors, Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency

From: Paul Freund, Agency Manager

Subject: October 2025 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. I attended the Disaster Management for Public Services and Public Works training on October 1 and October 2. The focus of the training was geared towards Emergency Managers but it provided valuable information if the landfill is involved in a disaster cleanup.
3. Christian was joined by WM's Recycling Education Representative, Ashlee Veneman, to give a "Recycling 101" presentation and answer questions about recycling and composting to members of the Maywood Women's Club on October 1. Following the presentation the club voted to join the Agency's Smart Business Alliance (SBA) program. Christian and Ashlee returned on October 14 to provide the club with recycling bins and signage to help them improve their recycling efforts.
4. Christian met with River Oaks MHP in Red Bluff on October 3 to discuss the benefits of joining the SBA program. Their Board decided to join the SBA and were provided with orange battery bags to hand out to their residents to encourage greater diversion of batteries from the landfill. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for November to provide them with recycling bins and signage.
5. I attended the Manton Apple Festival on October 4. Almost 100 food scrap pails were given to Tehama County residents along with information and demonstrations on how to start and maintain a backyard compost pile.
6. The Agency met with Green Waste of Tehama on October 7 to review and provide feedback on their 2026 Education Plan for Tehama County. The Agency was also given

their 2026 Education Plan for Red Bluff on October 13 and provided them with feedback on October 14.

7. I attended Tehama Together's Food Share meeting on October 9 hosted by Food for the Hungry at the Los Molinos United Methodist Church. Representatives from PATH, Rancho Tehama Community Church, Salvation Army, Tehama County Department of Education, and High Point Assembly were in attendance. Several food pantries have seen a decline in produce being donated, but other donations remain consistent. We also discussed ideas for increasing knowledge of food preparation for their clients and the potential to divert cookware and utensils in good condition from the landfill to their clients.
8. Christian attended the Corning Olive Festival on October 11 promoting recycling, proper household hazardous waste disposal, and backyard composting. Several oil drain containers and food scrap pails were given to attendees, along with other outreach flyers.
9. The Agency conducted a load check of a residential haul truck from Tehama County on October 14. A few battery-powered kid's toys, loose batteries, a few oil filters, spray cans with liquid contents, and a flat screen TV were found.
10. I attended the RCRC ESJPA meeting in-person in Sacramento on October 16. Circular Action Alliance presented updates on SB 54, the Plastic Pollution and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act (2022), and how it will impact local jurisdictions by providing funding for infrastructure if all covered materials are collected. The Agency will be paying close attention to this new law and how it will affect our operations and jurisdictions. Information was also shared about various bills sponsored or tracked by the ESJPA, a detailed account of Agency-sponsored legislation will be provided at the January Full Board Meeting, and I participated in the afternoon discussion on their Rural Zero Waste Plan.
11. I was on vacation from October 18 to October 26.
12. I gave a tour of the Landfill and MRF to Heather Taylor, a new reporter for the Red Bluff Daily News, on October 27. She wrote a great article about the Landfill that was published on the front page of the Daily News on October 31. A copy of the article is included at the end of this update.
13. The Agency had its monthly meeting with Waste Connections on October 27. We discussed their final upgrades to the yard waste collection area, future upgrades to the collection bins before the scales, and cell liner trust fund withdrawals for the Cell 3 construction project that has been completed.

14. Christian met with Green Waste of Tehama's Sustainability Coordinator, Max Bartlett, on October 21 to review the results from their last recycling audit ride along and discuss improvements to the process.
15. Christian and Max from Green Waste visited the Red Bluff Community Center on October 29 to discuss the SBA program and identify areas for recycling bins and signage. The Community Center joined the SBA and Christian will provide them with recycling bins in November and help place them strategically throughout the center to encourage greater diversion of recyclable materials.
16. Christian attended the Red Bluff-Tehama County Chamber of Commerce's Good Morning Red Bluff event on October 30 to share recycling tips for businesses and promote the SBA program.
17. The Agency hosted the Northern California Recycling Collaborative meeting on October 30 with attendees from Trinity County, Shasta County, City of Anderson, Glenn County, Lake County, Hambro Recycling (recently bought Big Foot Recycling), Waste Connections, and WM.
18. Christian continues to have regular check in calls for the used oil recycling video campaign to review the activity and trends.
19. The Agency submitted the Final Report and Payment Request for the TA7 grant on October 30. 3,489 tires were collected at four Passenger Tire Collection events and two Ag Tire collection months during the grant cycle. The Agency was not awarded the TA8 grant, but if funds are available, we will be notified in spring/summer of 2026.
20. Agency staff contributed waste reduction, recycling and hazardous waste disposal information to the monthly Lake CA POA newsletter and WasteWise News.
21. Household hazardous waste collection events will be held from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM on the second Saturday of November in Red Bluff and the third Saturday of November in Corning at the new temporary location.

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

Tehama County Landfill tour shows ways for community reuse



An informational sign about the landfill stands outside their office. Installation of additional signs is planned, to provide more education to the public. (Heather Taylor/Daily News)



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While the Tehama County landfill may, at first glance, seem only a place to dump trash and recyclables, it also offers a number of items and services to give back to the community.

During a visit to the landfill in late October, Tehama County Solid Waste Management Agency Manager Paul Freund shared some of the facility's functions and how the community can engage with the services offered.

Freund welcomes the public to reach out or to schedule a tour. Lately, the landfill has mostly hosted tours for smaller homeschool groups, who have the opportunity to use the facility's many-windowed conference room that overlooks the green hills of the landfill. The facility is – perhaps surprisingly – a beautiful location, in many ways.

In the spring, Freund said, it is covered in wildflowers, and because of the somewhat remote location at the end of Plymire Road in Red Bluff, it has unimpeded views of the surrounding landscape, all the way to the outlying mountains in the distance, capped with snow.

Field-trippers and tour-goers have the opportunity to learn about the facility's recycling efforts and to work there. Educating the public about ways to reduce, reuse, recycle, and rebuy is important, Freund shared.

In-person at the landfill, the importance of these concepts has a physical representation. A large, lined hole represents phase two of the landfill. The original phase is now capped and covered. This second phase looks relatively empty at the moment, but Freund said that at current dumping rates, it will take about 24 years to fill it.

There's more waste when the economy is good, Freund said, and less when people are pinching pennies and making efforts to buy less or find methods to reuse items instead of throwing them away.

A large portion of the recycling from the landfill is processed and shipped out by weight, including cardboard like that found in packaging. Among the large bales of compacted cardboard waiting to be shipped out, several patches still bore visible Amazon branding from boxes shipped to homes or businesses.

Reducing waste or reusing items is helpful, Freund explained, but people can also look into “rebuying.” This is the idea of buying items made from recycled materials, so those materials have new life. Freund mentioned items like pens made from recycled water bottles as ones the public can repurchase.

All these efforts impact landfill operations and recycling, but the landfill also works to provide more immediate, tangible benefits to the public.

In their sunny office, there is a dedicated room for reusable items, where the public can stop in to peruse and pick up items for home projects. Not only does this mean they do not have to go out and buy new materials, but it also gives the landfill an opportunity to not have to recycle or dispose of these items.

The shelves were somewhat empty in October, but Freund says they are often fuller, especially after spring cleaning, when residents might be emptying their garages.

Items available included wood stains and paints that the recycling staff determined are still good to use. This resource is what most often brings members of the public to the office, Freund said.

Beyond the reuse room, the landfill opens up their “swap shop” intermittently, which they announce on social media ahead of time. This large shed, located near the recycling center, is gradually filled with items that could have a second life.

At a previous swap shop event in July, the landfill advertised pallets, bricks, drainage ditches, and erosion control materials. They can also have toys and tools available.

In the past, Freund said there have been new, still-wrapped mattresses. The swap shop can empty out reasonably quickly, as the items are offered free to county residents, who are often excited to find new-to-them items for their homes.

Outside the swap shop, employees will also collect bikes to be picked up by the local nonprofit, The Freewheel Connection. The organization passes on bikes to kids in the community who may not otherwise have them.

Residents can also check in to see if they can pick up mulch for their gardens, created from green yard waste. During the tour, Freund pointed out a Sierra Pacific Industries truck and showed untreated, unpainted lumber in the business’s green waste pile. This, and other yard waste, can be turned into mulch, which can then be used in gardens or landscaping.

Those interested in tours or landfill programs should reach out to the office at 530-528-1103 or at tehamacountylandfill.com. The landfill is located at 19995 Plymire Rd, Red Bluff, and the office is up the hill to the right just before entering.