

We are pleased that COSA is aiming for 60% recycling by 2025, but hope we can soon raise our sights higher to real zero net waste goals. We want to work collaboratively with you and the rest of COSA to support your efforts. We have about 2800 members scattered throughout our city and surrounding areas. We have monthly (third Tuesdays) meetings at EcoCentro, 1802 N. Main, 630pm. Perhaps SWMD could give us a presentation sometime about SA waste issues. [Done 9/18/18]. I list below a few of the issues/concerns we seek to know more about:

- 1) What is our landfill usage currently (by volume, weight, or other industry measures), and historically, e.g. what are the trend lines? [substantially answered]
- 2) Where are currently operating landfills, and where are now closed sites? How are they built, operated and closed down? [answered]
- 3) What are the percentage major components of our waste stream? [FY 2019 budget includes funding for study to answer this]
- 4) How much of SA waste is handled by SWMD, vs. private haulers? How much is single family, vs multifamily vs commercial? [no real answers "P3" problem]
- 5) I believe the % recycling mentioned at the hearing was 33%. I did not hear any real details about how to bridge the gap between that number, and 60% at 2025, let alone net zero landfill waste. What are current obstacles and issues? Please provide us more information on those plans. [discussed at presentation]
- 6) How does the % recycling number break down into subcategories, i.e., glass vs aluminum, vs other metal, vs paper, vs plastic, vs plastic bags? [see 3 above]
- 7) I understand glass is actually hauled to DFW region for recycling. That seems terribly inefficient. Isn't there any way that COSA, possibly in teamwork with private haulers, could develop a cost effective glass recycling plant here in SA? This could be another source of new entry level jobs for our community, and possibly benefit especially people trying to overcome criminal record backgrounds etc. [Discussed at presentation; very low landfill costs are major obstacle to many things, including this and mattress recycling]
- 8) Is there a similar problem with plastics?
- 9) Plastic bag recycling has been in operation now for a few (3?) years. What data show its effectiveness? How many bags are recycled vs how many distributed? What is weight or volume of bags recycled? Has there been a decrease in clogged storm drains as a result? Has there been a decrease in trash pickup from roadways and stream beds as a result? [We did not get to this, and this remains to be answered]
- 10) What is the contamination rate of the recycling stream? What is rejection rate of bins? [Partially answered at presentation. Contamination is a huge problem, over 20%]. What are the issues revolving around the one bin, mixed recycling approach? Is the current system working as expected? Are there improvements or alternatives that should be considered?
- 11) Regarding the compost stream, what is the volume collected, and what are the contamination issues? [see 10 above] How much is being put in with general waste, representing an opportunity for increased composting? Would it be possible for a COSA Ordinance to require a certain amount of topsoil on all new development, and wouldn't this greatly expand demand for your compost?

12) Would a COSA ordinance requiring all addresses to have access to composting and recycling services help?

I thank you for reading through all these questions, and look forward to hearing from you and working with SWMD to reduce landfill use.

Thank you,  
Terry Burns, M.D.  
Chair, Alamo Sierra Club  
8/26/18, with follow up bracket inserts 9/20/18