

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ESAC)
WASTE DIVERSION, COLLECTIONS, AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE
Wednesday, May 6, 3:00 PM
Hybrid Meeting**

**Legal Action Report and Meeting Minutes
Approved on August 5, 2026**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kris Yarter at 3:04 PM.

Those present and absent were:

Present:

Kris Yarter, Chairperson
Margot Garcia
Trevor Anthony Ledbetter
Douglas Jennings
Alfredo "Fred" Araiza

Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, City Manager's Office
Representative, Ward 2

Absent:

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Staff Members Present:

Pat L. Tapia
Frank Bonillas
Jose Montijo
Cristina Polsgrove
Brittany Aldrich
Nadia Ispiani

Deputy Director, Environmental Services
Administrator, Environmental Services
Administrator, Environmental Services
Management Coordinator, Environmental Services
Staff Assistant, Environmental Services
Executive Assistant, Environmental Services

Both Subcommittee members and staff attended the meeting virtually via Zoom.

2. Chairperson's Report

No report.

3. Deputy Director's Report

Pat Tapia, Deputy Director, reported on the following items:

1) Rate Increases

- The proposed fees and rates were scheduled to be presented at the upcoming public hearing on Tuesday, May 9, with Mayor and Council expected to take action. Mr. Tapia stated that there were no changes to the original rates presented from the Newgen study, except for the Clean City Fee, which was adjusted to \$3 based on the City Manager's recommendation. ESD was evaluating options to hire additional crews or contract out the work and was in the process of developing a Request for Proposals (RFP).
- Mr. Tapia also provided updates on proposed changes to Chapter 15 fees, noting that the fees had not been updated in 15 years. The updated rates would include residential special handling fees, additional pickups, and other applicable services. The draft changes were available in the materials provided to Mayor and Council on March 17.

- 2) Brush and Bulky (B&B) Program, Mr. Tapia reported that ESD had been promoting the B&B on-demand pilot program in Areas 19 and 25. After six months of implementation, ESD decided to pause the pilot program due to staffing limitations and planned to provide communication to Mayor and Council and the City Manager to seek further direction. Areas 19 and 25 would return to the regular twice-a-year scheduled collection service.

4. Waste Diversion

Cristina Polsgrove, Management Coordinator, reported on the following items:

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) Report

Ms. Polsgrove presented the March 2026 Tons Delivered to the MRF, commodity pricing, and cost of processing slides. She reported that material commodity prices had mostly increased, with approximately 1,700 to 1,800 tons processed per month. She also noted that contamination levels remained very low. The MRF audit was scheduled for the first week of June.

5. Landfill and Compliance

Frank Bonillas, Administrator, reported on the following items:

- 1) Mr. Bonillas reported that ESD rented a grinder in April to process accumulated green waste materials. The equipment was operated for approximately one month, allowing ESD to complete processing of the backlog. The rental cost was approximately \$65,000, and the equipment processed approximately 3,000 cubic yards of clean green waste and 5,000 cubic yards of coarse mulch.
- 2) Mr. Bonillas reported that ESD conducted a study to evaluate compaction performance. He stated that ESD received approximately 112,000 tons of waste and achieved a daily compaction rate of 1,412 pounds per cubic yard, with a goal of increasing the rate to 1,500 pounds per cubic yard in the following year. GPS technology was being used to track daily compaction. Based on the current compaction rate, the landfill had an estimated remaining life cycle of approximately 44 years.

- 3) Mr. Bonillas also shared information regarding the HHW collection event scheduled for Saturday, May 9, at Pima Community College Downtown and noted that the next HHW event will be in September.
- 4) Mr. Bonillas provided an update regarding the meeting with EPA related to the gas collection system. He also reported that PDEQ had conducted an inspection approximately two weeks prior to the EPA meeting and provided positive feedback and compliance certification. ESD continued to update the system and work with SCS Engineers on the Phase 2 Improvement Plan, which would identify locations for additional wells, equipment needs, and potential repairs or replacement of the flare system.

6. Collections

Jose Montijo, Administrator, reported on the following items:

- 1) Mr. Montijo shared that Waste and Recycling Workers' Week would take place during the week of June 15.
- 2) Recruitment, Mr. Montijo reported that there were 10 available Solid Waste Equipment Operator (SWEO) positions. Twenty-two candidates were invited to interview, and 21 candidates were placed on the eligibility list. For Environmental Service Worker (ESW) positions, 16 candidates were interviewed for six available positions.
- 3) OPCS Homeless Program, Mr. Montijo reported that OPCS has three crews consisting of approximately 7–8 members per crew and assisted ESD with illegal dumping removal and cleanup activities. He shared a slide highlighting cleanup areas and schedules, with an average of 36 areas scheduled for cleanup per month.

7. Public Outreach Update

Cristina Polsgrove, Management Coordinator, reported on the following items:

- 1) Ms. Polsgrove shared public concerns regarding the proposed Clean City Fee, noting that some residents expressed concerns that they should not be responsible for funding cleanup programs related to homelessness and believed individuals should be responsible for cleaning up after themselves.
- 2) Ms. Polsgrove also shared Team Up to Clean Up statistics led by Steve LaTurco, which began in 2023. The program collected 1,873 bags in 2023, 6,678 bags in 2024, and 16,998 bags in 2025.

8. Future Agenda Items for Next Meeting dated June 3, 2026

Future agenda items are as follows:

- Recycle Coach
- Safety
- ByFusion

9. Call to the Audience – No audience.

10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 4:08 PM.