

SWAC Committee and Attendees,

Saturday, June 23, 2018

For your review in preparation of discussion at the SWAC meeting on June 28th, 2018 at the Tri Area Community Center, 10 West Valley Road, Chimacum, WA 98325 the attached files provide a background to the China market collapse and how this problem is changing the way we are recycling and what other communities are experiencing as they try to resolve the effects on local recycling programs.

In addition to May 24th Minutes and June 28th Agenda attachments include background preparation files including:

1 – 2: WRRRA publications provided to BOCC on June 11th;

3 – 7: China market closing effects on the recycling industry and local recycling collection programs (No. 6 will follow on Monday);

8: SWMP Chapter 4 - Recycling, Section 4.3;

Why this special meeting? Assuming markets will not effectively recover for two years or more, Jefferson County is facing significant recycling budget shortfalls this year and in the future without immediate changes. As a result of the lack of recycling markets, the County is projecting Solid Waste annual losses in excess of \$100,000 per year due to our program collection of nonmarketable plastics and certain mixed paper products.

What can be done? Because of mounting financial losses, some rural counties are discontinuing their recycling programs and landfilling nonmarketable stockpiled recyclables. Some counties are changing their programs by not collecting some recyclables and rethinking their long term collection programs focusing on reducing contamination. Some are using different combinations of the above and possibly other available options. Attached files provide Committee members background to understand the widespread effects and some solutions other local jurisdictions are implementing now and in the future.

What are we doing at this meeting? **First**, the market collapse is affecting Jefferson County because we do not have markets for our recovered plastics and most of our mixed paper. Jefferson County is proposing to the SWAC discontinuing the collection of nonmarketable plastics and mixed paper products and asking for committee comment and committee alternative solutions (SWMP 4.3) that will reduce fund losses and yet maintain as much of our recycling program as possible. **Secondly**, some nonmarketable stockpiled materials cannot be stored for very long before they become ruined by the weather and must be disposed of in the landfill in accordance with our operating permit. Jefferson County is asking for committee comment and alternative solutions for those stockpiled nonmarketable materials that cannot be stored or recycled before they must be landfilled.

Next Steps. By reducing contamination in our recovered recyclables through increased education and public participation other major changes to our recycling program can be reduced in the future. The July 26th meeting will include a focus on our community outreach and education programs as well as a continued discussion and comment on changes to our recycling program due to market collapse in China.

Thank you to all responding SWAC members as our attendance list show we will have a Quorum! Additionally, we have asked Rick and Sharon Hlavka, Green Solutions to attend this meeting as facilitators. Please recall, from 2015 through 2016 Green Solutions facilitated the revision of the Jefferson County Solid Waste Management Plan which involved nearly 15 meetings. Please join me in welcoming Green Solutions who will assist us, as before, in facilitating discussion and comment at this meeting..

As always, we look forward to seeing you and committee discussions as we join you in planning for our future recycling program changes.

Regards,

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