

# BCPUD PIPELINE



Fall 2018

270 Elm Road, P.O. Box 390, Bolinas, CA 94924 (415) 868-1224

## Recycling News

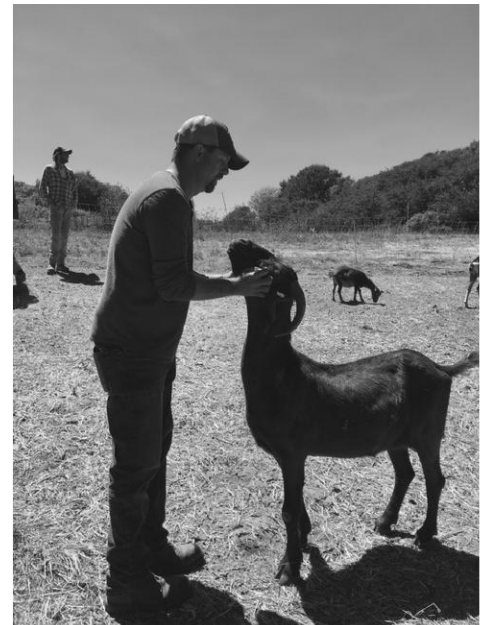
On March 1, 2018, as part of its “National Sword” policy, the Chinese government began enforcing strict new contamination standards on imports of mixed paper, plastics, and other common recyclable materials. Under the new standards, contamination cannot exceed 0.5% -- a fraction of the previously allowed levels. As a result, large quantities of material are being rejected at Chinese ports. Prior to National Sword, China accounted for more than 60% of the international recycling demand. The recent policy enforcement has impacted recycling facilities globally, including Recology’s Material Recovery Facility in Santa Rosa. Despite these challenges, Recology states that it remains committed to the environmental and social benefits of recycling, and is responding to the situation by locating markets in areas other than China, intensifying its efforts to proactively identify contaminated containers, and developing education and outreach for customers in an effort to reduce the contamination levels. Please, do your part to ensure that “contamination” (i.e., non-recyclable garbage) is NOT included in your recycling can!

**Water or Sewer emergency? Please contact our office at 415-868-1224**

## BCPUD COMPLETES THE CALFIRE-FUNDED HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION PROJECT IN THE EUCALYPTUS GROVE BELOW THE SEWER PONDS.

As we reported earlier this year, the BCPUD was awarded \$150,000 in grant funds by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (“CAL FIRE”) to treat approximately ten (10) acres of invasive brush and a large stand of eucalyptus trees on BCPUD property behind the Resource Recovery Project and below the district’s sewer ponds. The grant funds are from the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund (“SRAFPF”) and were awarded to enable the BCPUD to pay for the selective thinning of smaller trees, the removal of ladder fuels and brush, and the limbing of branches up 10-feet in order to increase forest resilience and reduce the potential for a fire to threaten downtown Bolinas. Bolinas is part of a State Responsibility Area (“SRA”) urban-wildland interface and Bolinas property owners pay an annual SRA fee to the state which, among other things, helps fund the SRAFPF.

Before the grant-funded work began, the BCPUD engaged a herd of goats and other herbivores to graze out the large volume of ground-level vegetation, including but not limited to massive stands of poison oak, to enable the anticipated work crews to be able to do their work safely and efficiently. Ray Allen and his herd of approximately 120 animals arrived in Bolinas right after the Fourth of July holiday, accompanied by several llamas and alpacas who served as “guardians of the goats”. This amazing herd of gentle animals grazed for several weeks, effectively eliminating thousands of pounds of ground-level vegetation. The goats were incredibly



tenacious and hard-working, even climbing trees to consume as many green leafy plants as possible! (Ray refers to the particular goat climbing the tree in this photo as his “employee of the month”.) The goats’ work made the entire project area much safer for the work crews as they eliminated the oily poison oak leaves and also exposed the floor of the forest, revealing fallen logs and other potential tripping hazards.



Crews from three different companies arrived on-site during the week of August 20, 2018: Conservation Corps North Bay, Small World Tree Company, and

Pacific Slope Tree Cooperative. The Conservation Corps North Bay (“CCNB”) is the oldest youth conservation corps in the country. CCNB provides year-round job training and education services and its programs prepare young people from all corners of the North Bay to become strong environmental leaders, develop an



ethic of service and create strong, sustainable communities. The CCNB crew focused on ground-level vegetation removal, all of which was done by hand and which consisted primarily of large stands of highly flammable cotoneaster. The CCNB crew also hand-cut the vines of cape ivy off of the base of virtually every tree in the grove, and limbed the trees up 10-feet off the forest floor. The Small World



Tree Company is a full service tree care provider based in San Anselmo. Its crew was dedicated to removal of small saplings, which were chipped and dispersed on site. And the Bolinas crew from Pacific Slope Tree Cooperative, a collective of eight tree contractors and crews, did some of everything, including impromptu training of CCNB crews, which they greatly appreciated.



The BCPUD would like to express its deep appreciation to every single crew member and supervisor from each of these organizations as they were uniformly polite, eager and very hard-working. It was a pleasure for the BCPUD staff to work with these crews every day and we all enjoyed watching the slow transformation of the eucalyptus grove from an impenetrable thicket of highly flammable vegetation to a beautiful managed forest, depicted in these photos.



### UPDATE ON THE BCPUD'S EAST TANK REHABILITATION PROJECT

As this newsletter goes to press in early October 2018, the district anticipates that a contract soon will be awarded for the rehabilitation of the district's East Tank (pictured below, on the right), one of two drinking water storage tanks near the Woodrat Water Treatment Plant on Mesa Road. The rehabilitation work includes dry-sandblasting and recoating the interior and exterior of the tank, minor steel reinforcement and repair work, replacement of certain tank accessories and associated improvements to meet current standards of public health and safety. The project is expected to occur during the winter months when the district is best able to operate with one of its storage tanks out of use.

