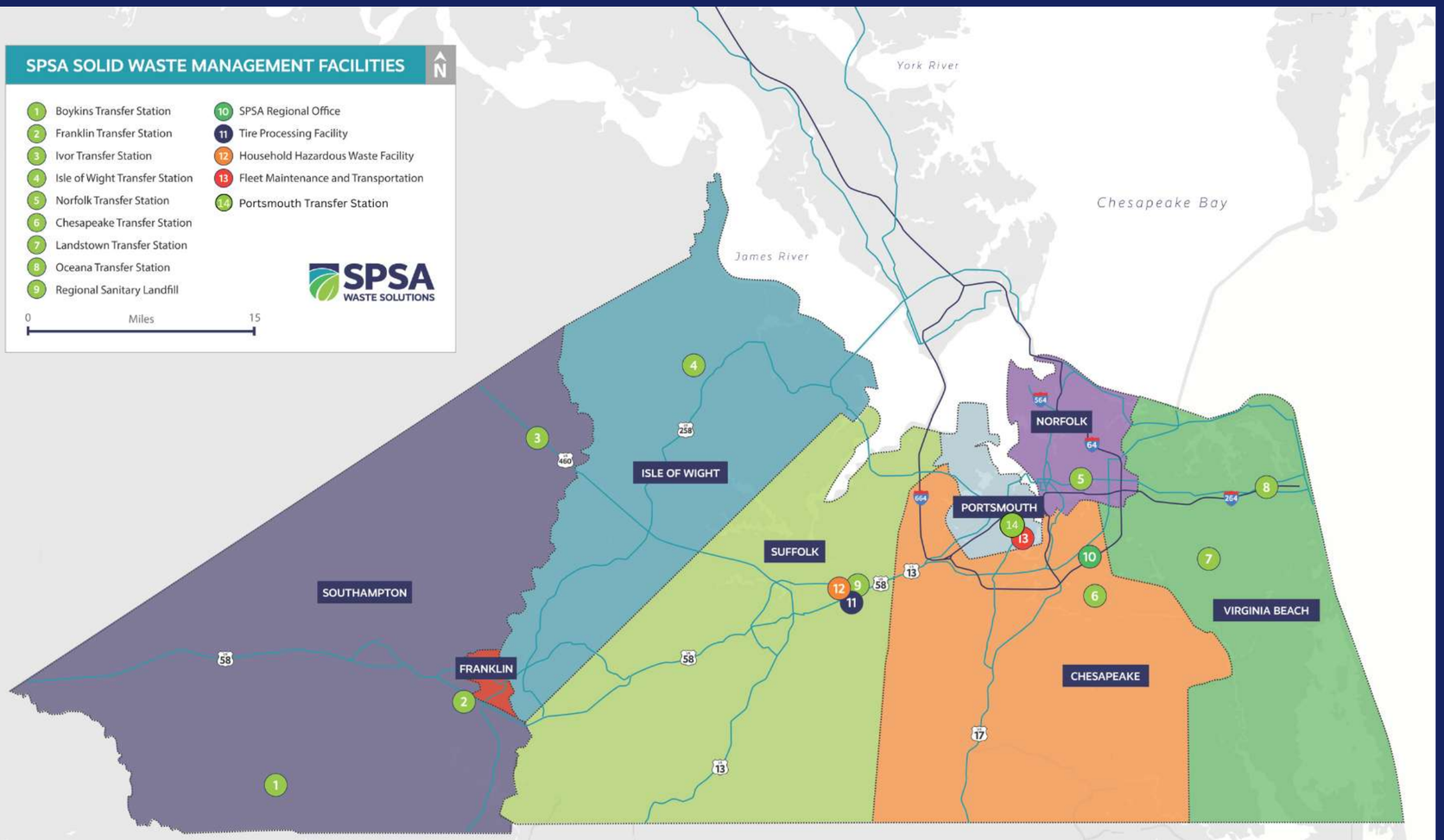
SPSA SORT

Separating Organics, Recycling & Trash

Zach Trees
Public Relations Manager

SPSA WASTE SOLUTIONS | SORT Separating Organics, Recycling & Trash

Who We Are

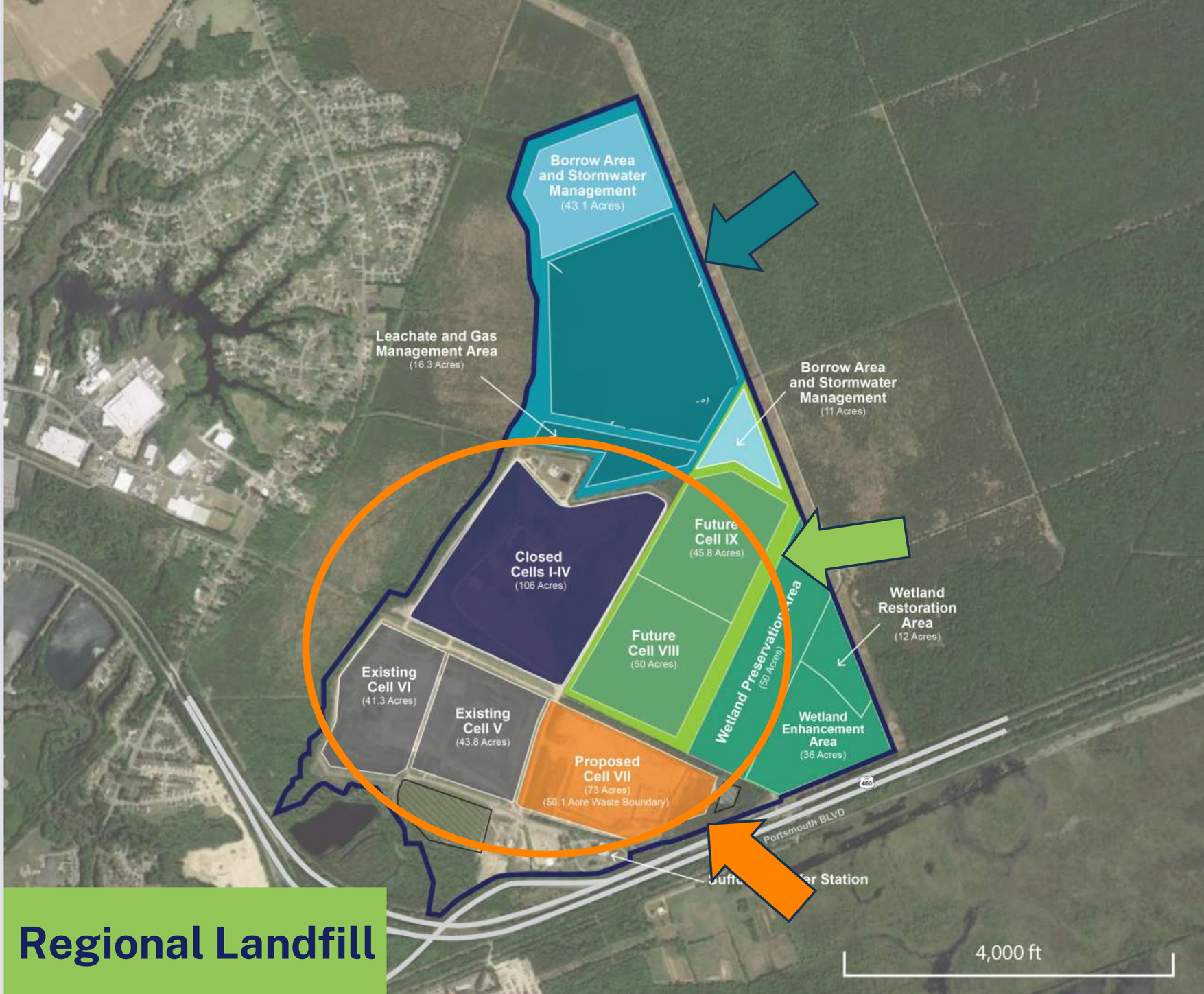


- Southeastern Public Service Authority
- Safe and environmentally sound disposal of waste
- 8 member communities
- 16-member Board of Directors
- 1.2 million residents

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Master Plan

- 833 Acres
- Cell VII construction is almost complete.
- Future expansion: in order to secure permitting for VIII and IX (Green), we had to give up X, XI, and XII (Aqua).
- Landfill expiration: 2060 (at current disposal rates)



Regional Landfill

What does this mean?

- Landfill space is limited. → Full by 2060
- Most (~70%) of our waste doesn't need to be landfilled.



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“Trash is only a problem if we fail to see its potential.”

— Anonymous

About 70% of our waste doesn’t need to be landfilled.



Path to Potential

- **Summer 2023:** conducted Waste Characterization Study
- **February 2024:** issued an RFP to provide an Alternative Waste Disposal mechanism for the region.
- **November 2025:** extended Use & Support Agreements with member communities.
- **November 2025:** authorized a 20-year agreement with AMP.

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We SORTed it Out

SPSA SORT
Separating Organics, Recycling & Trash



SPSA SORT is a start-to-finish initiative for managing waste:

- Goes beyond just collecting and landfilling trash.
- Balances technology, transparency and environmental accountability.

AI does the dirty work:

- We partnered with **AMP** to put AI where it belongs: *in the trash.*
- Cameras, AI, and air jets target organic and recyclable materials.

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From Curb to Commodity

Residential waste



- Trash is placed in a container

Municipality waste

- Trash is picked up by trucks

SPSA waste

- Waste is hauled to SPSA transfer stations

AMP waste



- SPSA collects and hauls up to 540,000 tons per year

Recyclables

- Further separated and sold

Organics

- Converted into biochar
- Sold and generates carbon credits

Residue

- Less than 50% of waste back to SPSA

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Inside Look

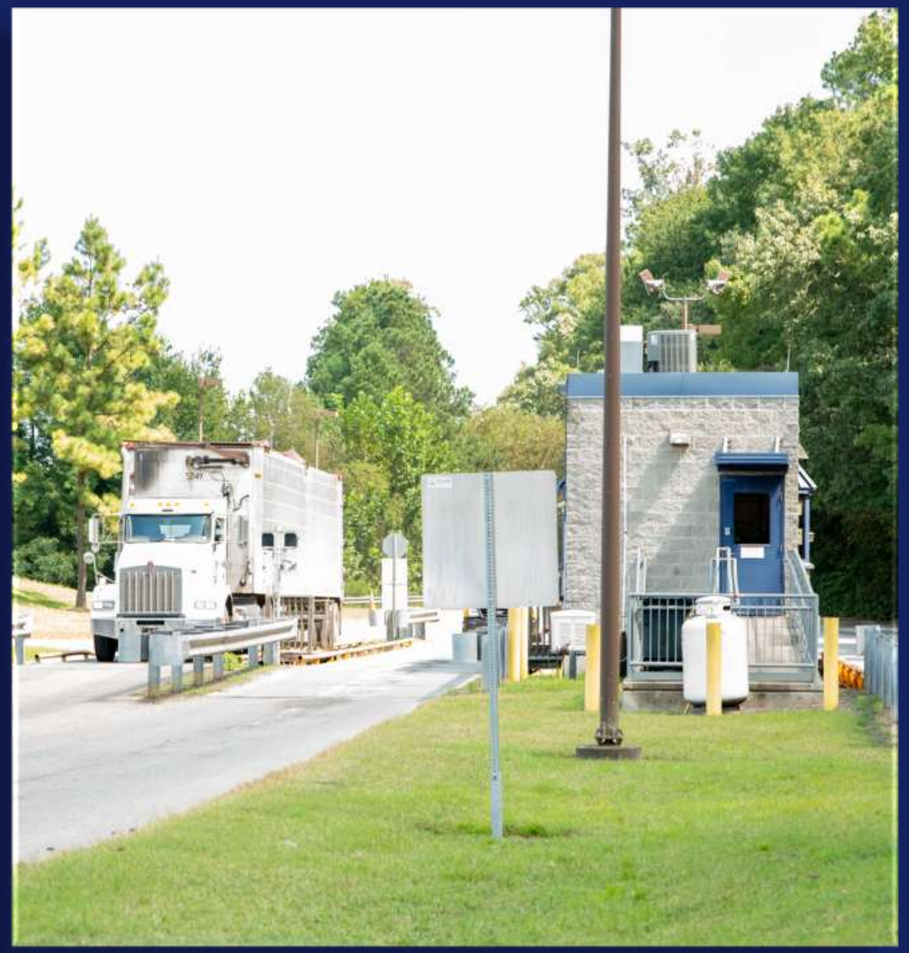








SPSA SORT Big Picture



- 20% of all waste will be recycled.
- 30% will become biochar.
- =50% diversion
- Decreases long-term costs to the region.
- Doubles the life of the Regional Landfill.
- All 1.2 million residents participate.
- Scalable model that grows with the region.

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What is Biochar?

- Made of **organic** material through **pyrolysis** process

Benefits

- Traps carbon
- Cuts greenhouse gas emissions

Uses

- Added to soil or concrete
- Sold as carbon credits



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Spotlighting the O for Organics

Biochar provides an opportunity to **expand waste solutions** beyond traditional trash and recycling models and demonstrate how **organic materials** can be converted into valuable products that **support environmental and economic outcomes**.

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Simple Breakdown

Problem: Organics in the waste stream create greenhouse gases and take up landfill space.

→

Solution: SPSA SORT removes organics and processes them in an environmentally positive way.

→

Positive Outcome: Creates biochar, carbon capture, landfill space.

- Methane is 28x more potent than CO2.
- Landfills are #3 human-caused source of methane emissions in the U.S.
- Food waste generates ~60% of landfill methane.

Source: U.S. EPA (2026)

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Tradeoffs

- $200 million investment → Supports technology for long-term growth.
- Higher fees in short term → Ensures long-term savings.
- 50% diversion → Separates high value commodities to support long-term viability and environmental accountability.
- Doubles the life of the Regional Landfill.

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Operational Timeline

2026 – Frederick Blvd, Portsmouth

- Sorting is already up and running
- 108,000 tons/year

2028 & 2029 – Victory Blvd, Portsmouth

- Larger sorting facility
- Biochar facility
- 432,000 tons/year

2024
Region pursues new contract for waste management

Late 2025
Region authorizes new Alternative Waste Disposal Contract

← **WE ARE HERE**
Mid 2026
Regional Operations **at 20%**

Mid 2028
Regional Operations **at 60%**

Early 2029
Regional Operations **at 100%!**

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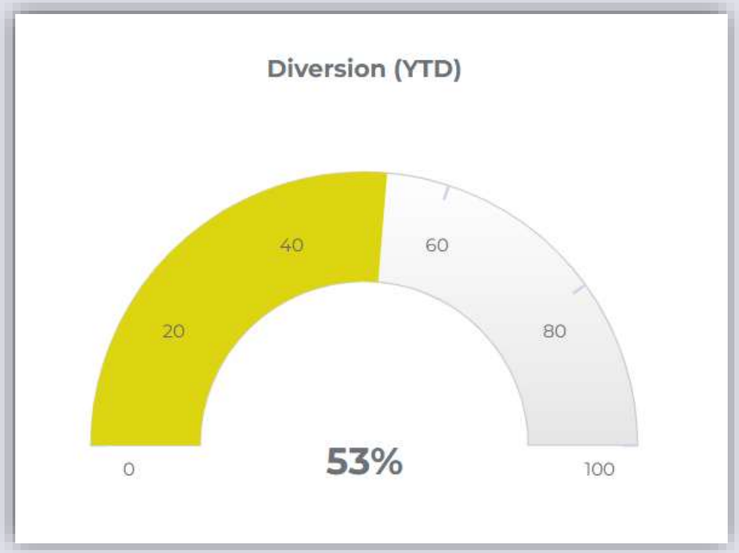
See Where Your Trash Goes

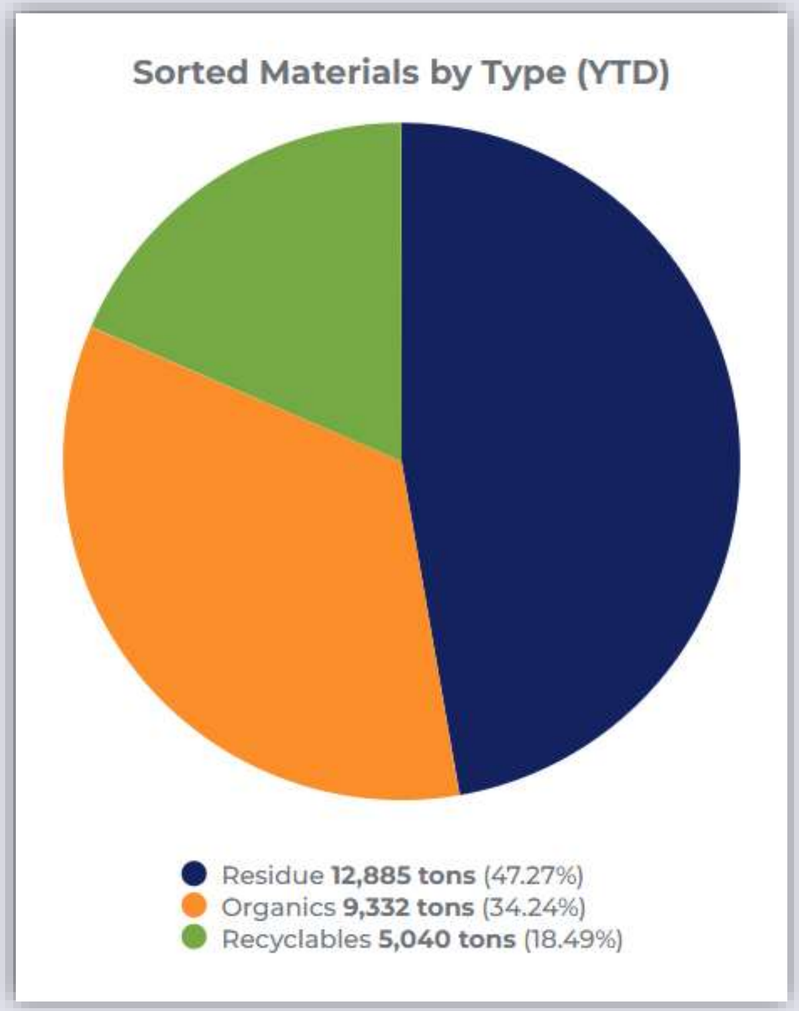
Public Dashboard

Updated monthly:

- Diversion
- Waste streams
- Recycling rate
- Environmental benefits

spsava.gov/transparency





Questions?

Zach Trees

ztrees@spsava.gov

Learn more at spsava.gov/sort

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