

Justification for Discontinuing Ecolab Services

To: WSD Board

From: Child Nutrition Department

Date: April 13, 2026

Subject: Formal Recommendation to Terminate Ecolab Contract and Revert to SFSPac

Executive Summary

This memorandum serves as a formal recommendation to discontinue the use of Ecolab as the chemical provider for Weber School District (WSD) kitchens. While the initial transition to Ecolab was driven by projected cost savings, the partnership has resulted in **increased expenditures, equipment degradation, and unresolved maintenance issues**. We propose a return to our previous provider, **SFSPac/Rocky Mountain Solutions (hereafter "SFSPac")**.

1. Failed Fiscal Projections

The primary objective of moving to Ecolab was to reduce departmental costs. However, data from the past several months indicates that we are spending significantly more than we did under our previous contract. These costs are driven by:

- **Higher Chemical Consumption:** Managers report using excessive amounts of delimer in an unsuccessful attempt to combat persistent mineral and chemical buildup. Other product usages have needed to increase because more product has had to be used than originally stated. For example, we have used \$86,093.32 in Ecolab products from July to January of this school year (7 out of 12 months). The bid we received from SFSPac that we will pay a set amount of \$86,400 for the entire year for the first year we would be contracted with them. This would increase annually by 3%.
- **Ancillary Costs:** Ecolab representatives have repeatedly suggested hardware modifications and additional parts as "fixes" for performance issues, all of which represent unbudgeted costs to the district.

2. Equipment Damage and Maintenance Concerns

The integrity of our kitchen equipment is currently at risk. Since the implementation of Ecolab products, we have observed:

- **Sensor Failures:** Our maintenance team has reported an abnormal frequency of dishwasher sensor replacements. They suspect the chemical composition and buildup of Ecolab products is directly responsible for this accelerated wear.

- **Persistent Chemical Buildup:** A stubborn white film has developed inside the dishwashers and on kitchen floors due to chemical leaks. Ecolab representatives have said it is hard water. However, reports have demonstrated that it is the Ecolab chemicals.
- **Ineffective Remediation:** White floor stains have developed under many of the dishwashers. Ecolab representatives claimed these floor stains could be removed with water, which it did not. Even Ecolab representatives themselves were unable to remove the film, even with manual scrubbing on their hands and knees.

3. Lack of Accountability

Despite multiple site visits, Ecolab has consistently deflected responsibility. Their representatives have attributed the issues to:

1. Hard water quality
2. Plumbing deficiencies
3. Mechanical malfunctions

By refusing to acknowledge the correlation between their chemicals and the resulting damage, Ecolab has proven to be an unreliable partner in maintaining our district's facilities.

4. Comparative Evidence: The Uintah Case Study

Controlled testing at schools with new dishwashers provides clear evidence that the chemicals are the root cause. By opting to use our previous provider, **SFSPac**, in select locations, Brian Anderson has tracked a stark difference in performance.

As documented in the [Dishwasher before and after](#) report:

Date	Chemical Provider	Observation
Aug 2025 – Jan 30, 2026	Ecolab	Heavy, persistent white film buildup on Uintah dishwasher.
Feb 12, 2026	SFSPac (2 weeks)	Significant decrease in film visibility.
March 24, 2026	SFSPac (7 weeks)	Near-total elimination of film and return to standard equipment hygiene.

Other schools are also documented, including West Field, Municipal, and Roosevelt.

5. Recommendation

The evidence demonstrates that the Ecolab contract is neither cost-effective nor sustainable for the long-term health of WSD equipment. To protect our investments and ensure the cleanliness of our kitchens, we recommend the Financial Committee approve a full transition back to **SFSPac**. The cost of of a 5 year contract with SFSPac would be \$458,709.33.