DATE: March 27, 2019

TO: Waste Management Authority Board

FROM: Wendy Sommer, Executive Director

BY: Michelle Fay, Program Manager

SUBJECT: Reusable Transport Packaging Project Update

SUMMARY
One area of focus within the Agency’s work on sustainable packaging is reusable transport packaging. At the March 27 WMA Board meeting, staff will provide an update on current efforts to assist Alameda County businesses with making the switch to reusable transport packaging.

DISCUSSION
While consumer facing packaging often gets more attention, transport packaging remains a large portion of the commercial waste stream. This is the packaging consumers don’t typically see: the cardboard used to transport packaged goods, the pallets those boxes are stacked on, and the plastic wrap used to secure those boxes onto the pallet. StopWaste’s “Use Reusables” campaign began in the early 2000s and is one of the Agency’s longest standing upstream business waste prevention efforts. The project provides tools, technical assistance, and funding to support the switch to durable, reusable transport packaging alternatives.

This informational update will include highlights of our technical assistance efforts, funding opportunities, and examples of local businesses that have made the switch to more durable transport packaging alternatives.

RECOMMENDATION
This item is for information only.