

**APPROVED**

**MINUTES OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE  
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY MEETING  
OF THE  
PROGRAMS AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, March 12, 2015**

**9:00 A.M.**

**StopWaste Offices  
1537 Webster Street  
Oakland CA 94612  
510-891-6500**

**Members Present:**

Dave Sadoff, Chair, Castro Valley Sanitary District  
Keith Carson, County of Alameda (left 10:15 a.m.)  
Trish Spencer, City of Alameda (arrived 9:15 a.m.)  
Susan Wengraf, City of Berkeley (left 10:48 a.m.)  
Don Biddle, City of Dublin  
Dianne Martinez, City of Emeryville  
Suzanne Lee Chan, City of Fremont (arrived 9:20 a.m.)  
Luis Freitas, City of Newark (left 10:15 a.m.)  
Dan Kalb, City of Oakland (left 10:20 a.m.)  
Shelia Young, Oro Loma Sanitary District  
Pauline Cutter, City of San Leandro

**Absent:**

Laureen Turner, City of Livermore

**Staff Present:**

Gary Wolff, Executive Director  
Wendy Sommer, Deputy Executive Director  
Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director  
Cassie Bartholomew, Program Manager  
Michelle Fay, Program Manager  
Justin Lehrer, Senior Program Manager  
Kelly Schoonmaker, Program Manger  
Wes Sullens, Program Manager  
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

**Others Participating:**

Georg Krammer, Koff & Associates

**1. Convene Meeting**

Dave Sadoff, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

**2. Public Comments**

There were none.

## APPROVED

### 3. Approval of the Draft Minutes of February 12, 2015 (Wendy Sommer)

**Action**

Board member Freitas made the motion to approve the draft minutes of February 12, 2015. Board member Young seconded and the motion was carried 9-0 (Chan, Spencer and Turner absent).

**The committee adjourned to close session at 9:11 a.m. and returned to open session at 10:05 a.m.**

### 4. Closed Session: Government Code Section: 54957.6(a)

Conference with Labor Negotiator

Agency Negotiator: Gary Wolff

Employee Organization: Unrepresented employees (all Agency employees; position titles available upon request). Confidential materials mailed separately.

The committee provided direction to staff regarding budgeting and personnel items.

### 5. Presentations of Product Decisions Projects (Wendy Sommer & Justin Lehrer)

**Information**

This item is for information only.

Wendy Sommer provided an overview of the staff report and PowerPoint presentation on Product Decisions Targets. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available here:

<http://www.stopwaste.org/file/2290/download?token=4nj0yC9r>

A copy of the program handouts is available here:

<http://stopwaste.org/file/2250/download?token=USWV9MJo>

Board member Spencer inquired about the slide showing the "good stuff." Ms. Sommer stated that the slide represents the agency's goal to reduce 60% of compostable/recyclable materials to 10% in 2020. The "other stuff" represents what remains in the garbage, including hard-to-recycle materials. Board member Spencer asked if the cost savings resulting from the switch from disposable food ware to reusables take into account water used for washing. Ms. Bartholomew confirmed that it is.

Chair Sadoff stated that the chasing arrows label only indicates the type of material but does not ensure its recyclability and inquired if staff is doing outreach to inform the public. Mr. Lehrer stated that there is no consistent labeling system so staff has endorsed a voluntary recyclability label developed by the Sustainable Packaging Coalition. It is hoped that this label will become the industry standard and reduce confusion for consumers. Some local companies such as Clorox, Annie's Foods, and Plum Organics have adopted this labeling method. Board member Cutter stated that Ghirardelli Chocolates is a good candidate for the program.

Chair Sadoff thanked staff for the presentation.

### 6. Member Comments

**Information**

Board member Chan stated that she received an email complaint from a City of Fremont resident concerned that the recycling bin colors are not uniform and inquired if Fremont is the only city facing this issue. Mr. Wolff stated that in 2012, the agency formed a Franchise Task Force and spent a significant amount of time with member agency staff trying to come up with a system of standardization but various factors such as cost, waste hauler company colors, etc. rendered a negative outcome. However, there is some industry support for standardization of the color of bin lids. Chair Sadoff mentioned that Castro Valley specifies recycled content for the bins. Mr. Wolff added that the recycled content might make it more difficult to obtain light bin colors.

Board member Chan mentioned the significant waste generated at crab feeds and suggested volunteer organizations such as Boy Scouts to assist with proper recycling. Board member Cutter stated that she raised this issue two years ago and StopWaste staff has contacted the event facilities staff to provide

## **APPROVED**

assistance. Mr. Wolff stated that Nate Ivy, former Recycling Board member and Alameda County Office of Education staff, sometimes coordinates student volunteers at events to direct attendees on how to properly sort recyclables (through the service learning projects that we sponsor at middle and high schools around the County).

Board member Cutter commented that she takes the sorting labels from StopWaste and places them around City Hall to help inform the custodians. Board Member Spencer requested that the handouts be made available in a .pdf so she can distribute them electronically.

### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.