

**APPROVED**

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

**Thursday, May 12, 2016**

**9:00 A.M.**

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

**Members Present:**

City of Alameda	Jim Oddie
County of Alameda	Keith Carson
City of Berkeley	Susan Wengraf
Castro Valley Sanitary District	Dave Sadoff
City of Dublin	Don Biddle
City of Fremont	Suzanne Lee Chan
City of Newark	Mike Hannon
City of Oakland	Dan Kalb
Oro Loma Sanitary District	Shelia Young

**Absent:**

City of Livermore	Laureen Turner
City of San Leandro	Deborah Cox
City of Union City	Lorin Ellis

**Staff Present:**

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director  
Tom Padia, Deputy Executive Director  
Debra Kaufman, Senior Program Manager  
Kelly Schoonmaker, Program Manager  
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

**1. Convene Meeting**

Chair Sadoff called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**2. Public Comments**

There were none.

**3. Approval of the Draft Minutes of May 12, 2016 (Wendy Sommer)**

**Action**

Board member Biddle made the motion to approve the draft minutes of March 10, 2016. Board member Chan seconded and the motion was carried 7-0 (Carson, Cox, Ellis, Kalb, and Turner absent).

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### 4. New Regional Lawn to Garden Website (Kelly Schoonmaker)

Information

This item is for information only.

Kelly Schoonmaker provided a summary of the staff report and an overview of the Lawn to Garden website and associated grant activities. A copy of the combined staff report and presentation is available here:

[Lawn-to-Garden-Memo-05-12-16](#) A link to the website is available here: <http://lawntogarden.org/>

Ms. Schoonmaker requested that Board members add a link on their respective websites and inform staff of sheet mulching events in their jurisdictions so we can put them on the agency calendar.

Board member Young inquired about the number of hits to the website. Ms. Schoonmaker stated the website has received 36,000 hits and 19,000 of those hits were visits of 2 minutes or longer. Board member Chan inquired about the available rebates. Ms. Schoonmaker stated that all water suppliers rebate programs vary by funds available and rebate amount. The rebates are primarily for front yard conversions. EBMUD has an a la carte model that caps at \$2,500, and the California's Department of Water Resources (DWR) rebate program often supplements the local water supplier rebate program up to a total of \$2/SqFt.

Board member Hannon commented on the positive environmental impacts of doing sheet mulching as opposed to tearing up the sod and inquired if staff has conducted a cost benefit analysis. Ms. Schoonmaker stated that staff has unit costs on doing both projects. With respect to sheet mulching it is much cheaper to do it yourself as opposed to hiring a contractor as you can get most products free. Irrigation is the most expensive aspect of the project. Board member Hannon recommends that staff include this information on the website and inquired if the website provides a list of qualified contractors. Ms. Schoonmaker stated that the Lawn to Garden website directs to ReScape CA (formerly the Bay Friendly Coalition) website for this information.

Board member Wengraf inquired if there is a move to encourage municipalities to sheet mulch public median strips and if the Board can provide assistance in this regard. Ms. Schoonmaker stated that Alameda has already sheet mulched some of their medians in the Harbor Bay Parkway area and added a part of the Governors drought mandate last year was to stop watering public turfs such as medians. Staff recently received a call from the Alameda Fire Department and they expressed interest in sheet mulching the turf at all of their department locations. Ms. Schoonmaker added Senior Program Manager Teresa Eade conducted case studies featuring before and after photos of public projects on the website. Ms. Sommer stated StopWaste continues to provide technical assistance to member agencies that are interested in these projects. Board member Sadoff inquired if the 87 tons of sod debris can be used as ADC instead of going into the landfill. Mr. Padia stated the soil and rocks that are embedded in the turf can damage grinders at compost facilities and the removed turf is delivered to landfills in "rolls" whereas ADC must be able to be spread by dozers.

Board members thanked Ms. Schoonmaker for a wonderful presentation.

### 5. Legislative Priorities for 2016 (Debra Kaufman)

Action

Staff recommends that the Committee recommend the preliminary legislative Positions outlined in the staff report to the full Authority Board for the 2016 Session of the California legislature.

Debra Kaufman provided a summary of the staff report. The report is available here: [Legislative Priorities for 2016 memo-05-12-16](#) Ms. Kaufman informed the Board of an additional bill to be added to the list of bills to be supported. AB 1577 (Eggman) would expand tax credits for donating food to food banks. The bill is also supported by Californians Against Waste (CAW). Ms. Kaufman revised the staff recommendation to include the addition of AB 1577 (Eggman).

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Board member Kalb inquired about the overall policy on legislation and specifically on staff autonomy with respect to taking positions on bills already approved by the Board.

Ms. Sommer stated there is no policy or bylaws regarding legislation. Past practice has been to proceed with Board adopted priorities in responding to deadlines and obtaining support letters when appropriate, but also at staff discretion, wanting to get Board approval on certain legislation. Ms. Kaufman added on occasion there is certain legislation that staff feels would benefit from getting letters of support from Board members. Ms. Sommer added staff would appreciate hearing from the Board about their comfort level in allowing staff to proceed without approval on legislation that is under the umbrella of Board approved priorities. Board member Kalb stated that he welcomes staff to agendize the item for further discussion and stated he would lean toward approving such a policy.

Board member Carson stated that he supports the current staff recommendation but because the Board is comprised of elected officials in order to maintain transparency he recommends that staff bring any legislative decisions to the Board for discussion prior to any final actions. Board member Chan stated support for the current staff recommendation and suggested that the member jurisdictions can write letters that would benefit any support or oppose positions. Ms. Kaufman stated that she also gave this presentation to the TAC and provided sample letters to submit where appropriate.

Board member Kalb made the motion to approve the staff recommendation with the addition of AB 1577 (Eggman). Board member Wengraf seconded and the motion carried 8-0-1 (Cox, Ellis, and Turner absent) (Oddie abstained).

### **6. Member Comments**

Board members Chan, Oddie, and Wengraf, announced their cities support of Measure AA.

Board member Young stated that the Board should agendize a discussion on establishing a policy on how to address the issue of propositions. Ms. Sommer stated that staff would agendize in June or July a formal discussion on establishing policy and protocol for staff latitude on legislation as well as taking Agency positions on ballot propositions. Mr. Padia added the Board should also consider that the Board traditionally recesses in the month of August and it is a very busy period for the legislative session with gut and amend procedures and other "quick actions" that require immediate response.

### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.