

Authority Board (WMA) and Energy Council (EC) Members

Pauline Cutter, **WMA President & EC President**
City of San Leandro, WMA, EC
Jerry Pentin, **WMA 1st Vice President**
City of Pleasanton, WMA
Dan Kalb, **WMA 2nd Vice President, EC 1st Vice President**
City of Oakland, WMA, EC
Greg Jones, **EC 2nd Vice President**
City of Hayward, WMA, EC
Keith Carson, County of Alameda, WMA, EC
Jim Oddie, City of Alameda, WMA, EC
Peter Maass, City of Albany, WMA, EC
Susan Wengraf, City of Berkeley, WMA, EC
Dave Sadoff, Castro Valley Sanitary District, WMA
Don Biddle, City of Dublin, WMA, EC
Dianne Martinez, City of Emeryville, WMA, EC
Suzanne Lee Chan, City of Fremont, WMA, EC
Laureen Turner, City of Livermore, WMA
Luis Freitas, City of Newark, WMA, EC
Shelia Young, Oro Loma Sanitary District, WMA
Tim Rood, City of Piedmont, WMA, EC
Lorrin Ellis, City of Union City, WMA, EC

AGENDA

**MEETING OF THE
ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY (WMA) BOARD,
AND
THE ENERGY COUNCIL (EC)**

Wednesday, June 24, 2015

3:00 P.M.

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

Meeting is wheelchair accessible. Sign language interpreter may be available upon five (5) days notice by calling 510-891-6500. Members of the public wanting to add an item to a future agenda may contact 510-891-6500.

I. CALL TO ORDER (WMA & EC)

II. ROLL CALL (WMA & EC)

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENTS - *(Members are asked to please advise the board or the council if you might need to leave before action items are completed)*

Page **IV. CONSENT CALENDAR (WMA & EC)**

1 **1. Approval of the Draft Minutes of May 27, 2015** **Action**
 (WMA & EC, separate Votes) (Gary Wolff & Wendy Sommer)

5 **2. Property Update - Renewal of Leases on WMA Property (WMA only)** **Action**
 (Gary Wolff, Brian Mathews & Heather Larson)
 The P&A Committee recommends that the Authority Board authorize the
 Executive Director to enter into renewals of agreements with Paulo Farms,
 Sprint, and T-Mobile per the terms described in the memo to the committee
 linked above, subject to approval as to form by legal counsel.

7 **3. Minutes of the May , 2015 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) (EC only)** **Information**
 (Gary Wolff, Wendy Sommer & Karen Kho)

V. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION (WMA & EC)

An opportunity is provided for any member of the public wishing to speak on any matter within the jurisdiction of the board or council, but not listed on the agenda. Total time limit of 30 minutes with each speaker limited to three minutes.

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR (WMA & EC)

11	1. Public Hearing and annual adoption of Fee Collection Report for the household hazardous waste (HHW) Fee to be collected on the property tax roll (WMA only) (Gary Wolff & Debra Kaufman) Staff recommends that the WMA Board hold a public hearing on the Fee Collection Report for FY15-16, and approve it with any appropriate corrections.	Action/ Public Hearing
13	2. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (WMA only) (Gary Wolff) Staff recommends that the Authority Board elect officers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.	Action
	3. Interim appointment(s) to the Recycling Board for WMA appointee unable to attend future Board Meeting(s) (WMA only) (Gary Wolff) (P&O and Recycling Board meeting, July 9th at 5:30 pm – Fremont Transfer Station, 41149 Boyce Rd, Fremont, CA 94538)	Action
15	4. Legislative Positions -- Update for 2015 (WMA only) (Gary Wolff, Debra Kaufman & Wes Sullens) Staff recommends that the Waste Management Authority hear a staff update on AB 901 at the June meeting and share the attached support letter with their jurisdiction's lobbyist and others as appropriate, after the meeting.	Information
19	5. Bay Area Regional Energy Network Contract Amendment #2 (EC only) (Gary Wolff, Wendy Sommer & Karen Kho) Adopt the Resolution attached.	Action
23	6. Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (EC only) (Gary Wolff) Staff recommends that the Energy Council elect officers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.	Action
	VII. COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS (WMA & EC)	Information
	VIII. ADJOURNMENT (EC)	
	IX. CLOSED SESSION (WMA only) PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957) Title: Executive Director (confidential materials mailed separately)	
	X. ADJOURNMENT (WMA only)	

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA) BOARD,
AND
THE ENERGY COUNCIL (EC)**

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

3:00 P.M.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Pauline Cutter (WMA & EC), called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

WMA & EC

County of Alameda	Scott Haggerty, WMA, EC (arrived 3:25 p.m.)
City of Alameda	Jim Oddie, WMA, EC
City of Albany	Peter Maass, WMA, EC
City of Berkeley	Susan Wengraf, WMA, EC
Castro Valley Sanitary District	Dave Sadoff, WMA
City of Dublin	Don Biddle, WMA, EC
City of Emeryville	Dianne Martinez, WMA, EC
City of Fremont	Suzanne Lee Chan, WMA, EC
City of Hayward	Greg Jones, WMA, EC
City of Newark	Mike Hannon, WMA, EC
City of Oakland	Dan Kalb, WMA, EC (arrived 3:20 p.m.)
Oro Loma Sanitary District	Shelia Young, WMA
City of Piedmont	Tim Rood, WMA, EC
City of Pleasanton	Jerry Pentin, WMA (arrived 3:12 p.m.)
City of San Leandro	Pauline Cutter, WMA, EC
City of Livermore	Laureen Turner, WMA

Absent:

City of Union City	Lorrin Ellis, WMA, EC
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Staff Participating:

Gary Wolff, Executive Director
Wendy Sommer, Deputy Executive Director
Richard Taylor, Counsel, Authority Board
Arless Dunn, Clerk of the Board

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

President Cutter welcomed Councilmember Mike Hannon who was attending as the alternate for the City of Newark and Councilmember Jim Oddie, the new representative for the City of Alameda. Board member Young introduced Dan Walters as the new alternate for Oro Loma Sanitary District.

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR (WMA & EC)

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| 1. | Approval of the Draft Joint Minutes of April 22, 2015 (WMA & EC-Separate Votes) (Gary Wolff) | Action |
| 2. | Minutes of the April 21, 2015 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) (EC only) (Gary Wolff, Wendy Sommer & Karen Kho) | Information |
| 3. | Grants Under \$50,000 (WMA only) (Gary Wolff) | Information |

Board member Sadoff made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar for the WMA Board. Board member Biddle seconded and the motion carried 12-0 (Ellis, Haggerty, Kalb, Pentin, and Turner absent).

Board member Rood made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar for the Energy Council. Board member Biddle seconded and the motion carried 12-0 (Ellis, Haggerty, and Kalb absent).

V. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION (WMA & EC)

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR (WMA & EC)

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|----|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1. | FY15-16 Budget Adoption (WMA only) (Gary Wolff & Pat Cabrera) | Action/
Public Hearing |
| | That the WMA Board hold a public hearing on the budget and then adopt the portion of the FY15-16 budget funded by the WMA Board, pursuant to the attached resolution (Attachment B). | |

Gary Wolff provided a summary of the staff report. The report is available here:

<http://stopwaste.org/sites/default/files/meeting/15-16%20Budget%20Packet.pdf>

Board member Chan inquired if revenue from a possible conservation easement on our land can be used to pay down the unfunded pension liability. Mr. Wolff replied that this revenue can be used to support the mission of the agency and stated that he was unaware of any restriction with respect to pension liability, but deferred to legal counsel on this issue. Authority Counsel Richard Taylor agreed with Mr. Wolff. Board member Chan inquired if the agency would need to appropriate funds if the Board decides to proceed with the plastic bag expansion and what is the procedure for doing so. Ms. Sommer stated staff would do a budget amendment and the \$180,000 commitment from the Clean Water Program is applicable only if an ordinance expansion is adopted. The offer from the Clean Water Program would require that we and they enter into a Memorandum of Understanding for reimbursement of costs up to \$180,000 if the ordinance is adopted. Staff will provide details to the Board on the process and the budget amendment in July. Board Member Chan inquired if the \$180,000 is adequate to cover program costs. Ms. Sommers replied no, staff anticipates first year costs at \$215,000 and then will need to determine the cost for subsequent years. Board member Biddle inquired if we will need to look at eliminating or cutting back other programs. Mr. Wolff stated the Board could do that, or if the budget is increased, it will bring closer in time the day when the Board will have to consider an increase in fees or deeper cuts in the core budget than would be necessary otherwise.

Board member Hannon inquired if revenue from fee enforcement is revenue from the fees themselves, or from penalties for failing to pay those fees. Mr. Wolff replied it is primarily from fees owed as we have had to issue very few citations -- which is when penalties apply -- and the penalties collected have been a small percentage of total revenue collected through fee enforcement. Board member Hannon inquired if we have an estimate for uncollected revenue. Mr. Wolff replied based on the 2013 and 2014 calendar year data from the State Reporting System, missed revenue attributable to tons on the \$4.34 facility fee within Alameda County is \$300,000 to \$600,000 per year. Lost revenue is larger if any of those tons should have paid the Measure D fee or member agency franchise fees. Board member Hannon commended staff on fee collection efforts and extended any support that the Cities can provide in this regard.

Board member Cutter inquired how the agency allocates legal fees and if the line item is increased as we pursue other ordinances. Mr. Wolff stated yes it would increase the line item for legal fees if the Board votes to pursue

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expansion of the bag ordinance. Mr. Wolff added that legal fees are estimated by project, e.g. fee enforcement, the reusable bag ordinance, the mandatory recycling ordinance, legal review of all agency contracts as part of general overhead, etc. Board member Cutter asked that Mr. Wolff get back to her with the variation in legal fees from last year to the proposed fiscal year. Mr. Wolff stated that he would do so.

Board member Biddle inquired when the revenue from San Francisco will cease. Mr. Wolff stated roughly in January 2016. Mr. Wolff added that he has heard that Waste Management is still pursuing an extension of their disposal contract with San Francisco, and that he will keep the Board informed about the situation.

Board member Biddle inquired if we should be looking at increasing reserves or creating new reserves to address our future budgetary shortfall. Mr. Wolff replied that the accumulated account balances are enough to cover estimated deficits in the next four fiscal years, but we have not asked the Board to take action to designate those account balances for that purpose.

There were no comments from the public. Board member Turner made the motion to adopt the portion of the FY15-16 budget funded by the WMA Board, pursuant to the attached resolution (Attachment B). Board member Rood seconded and the motion carried 17-0 (Haggerty and Ellis absent).

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| 2. Proposed FY 2015/16 Budget (EC only) (Gary Wolff & Pat Cabrera) | Action/
Public Hearing |
| That the EC hold a public hearing on the budget and then adopt the attached attached resolution (Attachment C), which to maximize transparency readopts the entire EC budget for FY 15-16. | |

Wendy Sommer stated that the Energy Council continues to perform very well, and that performance was recognized recently by ABAG with an award for preserving and protecting the environment through the BayREN program. The program is performing four times as well as others across the State. Ms. Sommers added that she anticipates continuing to receive funding from the CPUC. Board member Biddle inquired if it will be difficult to project for future years. Ms. Sommers replied it may be but the current grants are for a period of two to three years and we are expecting to receive other grants this year.

There were no comments from the public. Board member Rood made the motion to adopt the attached resolution (Attachment C), which to maximize transparency readopts the entire EC budget for FY 15-16. Board member Biddle seconded and the motion carried 15-0 (Haggerty and Ellis absent).

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| 3. Interim appointment(s) to the Recycling Board for WMA appointee unable to attend future Board Meeting(s) (WMA only) |
| ((P&O and Recycling Board meeting, June 11th at 4:00 pm – StopWaste Offices, 1537 Webster Street, Oakland, CA) |

There were no requests for an interim appointment.

The Board adjourned to closed session at 3:25 p.m. and returned to open session at 3:45 p.m.

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| 4. CLOSED SESSION (WMA only): |
| Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 |
| PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION |
| Title: Authority Counsel |
| (confidential materials mailed separately) |

There was nothing to report from the closed session.

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| VII. COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS (WMA & EC) | Information |
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Mr. Wolff acknowledged Supervisor's Miley, Haggerty, and Carson for their tenacity and perseverance in the passage of the pharmaceutical bill. Mr. Wolff announced that over the next two months the WMA/EC agendas may include some very significant items such as funding more work about possible expansion of the bag ordinance, a conservation easement and property leases, etc., and encouraged the Board to attend or to arrange for their alternates to attend.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT (WMA & EC)

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.



June 17, 2015

TO: Waste Management Authority Board
FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director
BY: Brian Mathews, Senior Program Manager
Heather Larson, Program Manager II
SUBJECT: Property Update - Renewal of Leases on WMA Property

BACKGROUND

The WMA owns approximately 1,600 acres of real property (Property) in eastern Alameda County. The WMA manages seven agreements for use of the property including a wind power easement, a residential tenant lease, two memoranda of agreement with government agencies (Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the East Bay Regional Communication System Authority), a grazing license and two leases with telecommunications companies.

The following three agreements are approaching the end of their terms.

- **Grazing License (Master) Agreement** (Paulo Farms; expires 10/31/2015)
- **Electrical Trench Lease** (Sprint Spectrum LLC, hereafter "Sprint"; expires 10/16/2016)
- **Communications Site Lease** (T-Mobile; expires 7/31/2015)

DISCUSSION

On June 11th the Programs and Administration (P&A) Committee by a vote of 9-0 (Carson, Kalb and Turner absent) recommended authorizing the Executive Director to execute lease renewals per the memo to the P&A committee at <http://www.stopwaste.org/Property/Lease/Renewals.pdf>

RECOMMENDATION

The P&A Committee recommends that the Authority Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into renewals of agreements with Paulo Farms, Sprint, and T-Mobile per the terms described in the memo to the committee linked above, subject to approval as to form by legal counsel.

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Energy Council
TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)

Tuesday, May 15 2015 – 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Attendance:

City of Albany: Claire Griffing
City of Berkeley: Billi Romain
City of Dublin: Kathy Southern
City of Emeryville: Nancy Humphry
City of Fremont: Rachel DiFranco (phone)
City of Hayward: Erik Pearson
City of Livermore: Judy Erlandson (phone)
City of Newark: Myvan Khuu-Seeman (phone)
City of Oakland: Daniel Hamilton
City of Piedmont: Kevin Jackson
City of Union City: Avalon Schultz (phone)
County of Alameda: Damien Gossett
County of Alameda: Darryl Gray
StopWaste: Heather Larson, Stephanie Stern, Wes Sullens, Candis Mary-Dauphin
Guests: Josh Geyer – HUD; Marcus Savage and Emily Goodwin – Ygrene Energy

MEETING NOTES

Board Updates

- April Board meeting included brief EC budget overview, but there was no followup discussion or questions from the Board.
- There will be no separate agenda item at the May 27 meeting, but Wendy will mention the ABAG Growing Smarter Together award

CCA Updates (10 min)

- County staff is working on committee structure. Challenges have arisen in terms of managing group, given its size and the Board's desire to see more diverse representation
- The County is looking to add about 5 more slots to the committee.
- The County requested that Energy Council apply to the public committee. Staff submitted an application for an at-large seat but was not selected.
- TAG members shared the current status of jurisdiction appointments to the CCA committee
 - Alameda County – Supervisor Scott Haggerty
 - Albany – Claire Griffing, Mayor Peter Maass alternate

- Berkeley – Mayor Tom Bates, Neil deSnoo alternate
- Dublin – Not sure yet, maybe Roger Bradley
- Emeryville – Council Member Dianne Martinez, Karen Hemphill alternate
- Fremont – Dan Schoenholz, Rachel DiFranco alternate
- Hayward – Council Member Al Mendall, Council Member Greg Jones alternate
- Livermore – Council Member Steven Spedowski
- Newark – Council Member Mike Hannon
- Oakland, Council Member Dan Kalb, Daniel Hamilton alternate
- Piedmont – Council Member Tim Rood, Kevin Jackson alternate
- Union City – Avalon Schultz, Public Works staff Richard alternate

AB 758

- Local Government meeting at CEC on May 7, with focus on strategy 1.7
- Comments are due on the 21st of this month. StopWaste will submit content to be included in LGSEC comments
- Slides from the CEC meeting are posted on Basecamp

Local Government Challenge Grant

- Guidelines will come out this summer
- Daniel thinks there is an opportunity to get creative and think outside of the CPUC's perspective on topics such as fuel switching and getting to net zero
- Project examples featured at the meeting were not "out of the box." CEC may want to incentivize adoption of benchmarking policies and code compliance.
- Oakland is in the process of drafting a ZNE building code, which would mean getting rid of natural gas in buildings, and has faced pushback from PG&E
- PG&E may have been directed not to address fuel switching because of controversy over converting customers from less-expensive gas to more-expensive electric.
- CPUC is looking at emissions calculations for the first year, which look worse when utilizing all electricity if using Alquist Act methodology. Lifecycle projection may be one way of getting around this issue
- StopWaste is taking a soft approach to addressing ZNE by including recommendations in the BAMBE Technical Assistance for certain types of owners

Water-Energy grants

- Two grants coming out with CEC and DWR –
 - a direct rebate program , and
 - CA drought technology program
- It looks like drought technology program could be a good fit
 - We did not receive the DWR water energy grant because our water savings were not competitive, even though energy savings were high.

Staff debriefed with DWR on the application. Top projects included inexpensive fixture giveaway programs and water utility infrastructure projects.

Program Updates

- Single family
- (See single-family and multifamily hand-out on basecamp)
 - Held a training at StopWaste and a contractor event to increase contractor enrollment
 - Conducted outreach in April for earth month. Will be doing at least 2 more open houses in the fall.
 - Starting to work with realtors that will upgrade their own homes and then hold an open house and promote on social media
 - Testing out an approach called donate your savings – part of funds from saving go as a donation to a community group, and a part goes to Home Energy Analyzer.
 - StopWaste to invite CSE to demo the new statewide online tool (Planet Ecosystems) when it is launched
- Multifamily
 - Outreach has begun for 2 workshops in June. Contact Candis if you'd like assistance with sending letters or emails.
 - BAMBE received an ABAG award – Living Smarter Together
 - BAMCAP financing workshop was held in San Francisco – Lenders invited their clients, mix of property owners and Real Estate Brokers.
- Codes and Standards
 - Energy code trainings are being scheduled. Reach out to Wes or Candis if interested in having one done in your jurisdiction
 - A regional forum is happening in Fairfield on June 16th in the morning – Theme is Energy Code Best Practices for small cities
 - Wes requested input on what kind of “reach code” support jurisdictions were interested in having BayREN develop.
 - Examples of using incentives for a voluntary reach code
 - Cool roofing – in what sectors is it be beneficial
 - Single measure reach codes if they provide a way to get around title 24 costs and complexity
 - Builders want an above code prescriptive list – clear, noncomplex
 - Berkeley required LEED or GreenPoint Rated certification for their downtown, because it's in a priority development area.

PACE Updates (60 min)

- PACE program provider comparison matrix (Posted on Basecamp)
 - Stephanie will circulate final version
 - Oakland, Hayward, Union City, Alameda County are all going to Council next month to adopt resolutions for additional PACE programs.

- Piedmont just joined Open PACE, not much interest in joining more JPAs
- Marin and Sonoma set based level expectations for providers to coordinate countywide
- Concern about marketplace confusion with multiple PACE providers. Contractors are not likely to join all programs
- HUD Multifamily PACE Initiative
 - Josh Geyer – HUD office of Economic Resilience gave a presentation on HUD’ involvement in PACE (See PPT on basecamp)
 - HUD is trying to figure out one can be done to increase the appetite for MF PACE.
- Center for Sustainable Energy is developing a map to show which cities have which PACE programs operating. On the residential side, each costumer will be able to type in their address and see which PACE providers apply.
- TAG members not necessarily interested in having real time information on PACE participation, but after programs have matured. Would want city level data.
- Soft Story Resiliency Initiative
 - PACE being used to meet seismic standards in Berkeley, Oakland and SF. Oakland soft story ordinance goes forward in June. City has mapped all affected buildings. Seven year phase in.
 - SF did an RFP for PACE program for soft story ordinance requirements
 - Hayward is interested in PACE soft story funding

MEMBER COMMENTS

- Civic Spark – will be included in next month’s agenda

NEXT TAG MEETING: Tuesday, June 16 2015 from 1pm-3pm



DATE: June 16, 2015

TO: Waste Management Authority (WMA) Board

FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director

BY: Debra Kaufman, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Public Hearing and annual adoption of Fee Collection Report for the household hazardous waste (HHW) Fee to be collected on the property tax roll

BACKGROUND

At the May 2014 WMA meeting, the Board adopted Ordinance 2014-01: "Ordinance Establishing a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection and Disposal Fee", adopting a fee of no more than \$9.55 fee per residential unit.¹ The ordinance may be viewed at: <http://www.stopwaste.org/sites/default/files/Documents/hhw-ordinance.pdf>

This will be the second year that the fee is collected and used to support existing and expanded activities at the four (Oakland, Livermore, Hayward, Fremont) HHW facilities. The fee also supports up to twelve one day HHW events around the county per year and point of purchase outreach and education. To date, two one-day events have taken place, in San Leandro and Alameda. Another six are being planned for by the end of October. Since increasing hours and days of operation in January, 2015, participation has grown by 34%. Further growth in

¹ The revenue from the \$9.55 per household fee is expected to be approximately \$5.4 million in FY15-16. These revenues, along with the annual revenue from the \$2.15 per ton HHW landfill tip fee (estimated at \$1.7 million for FY15-16), pay for the county-wide HHW program. If actual landfill tip fee revenue in FY15-16 is higher than the estimated amount, or product stewardship programs create cost savings higher than estimated when the ordinance was adopted, the \$9.55 fee will go down in FY17-18.

The reduction in fee is lagged two fiscal years, not one, after revenues are received so that audited financials of actual revenue can be used to make the fee adjustment. We currently anticipate that the fee in FY16-17 will be lower than \$9.55 per household because landfill tonnages have been higher so far in FY14-15.

participation is expected over the remainder of 2015 due to greatly increased outreach to both single- and multi-family residents that is underway.

According to law under which the fee was adopted, a Fee Collection Report (FCR) must be approved by the Board each year, prior to placing the \$9.55 parcel fee on the Alameda County property tax roll. A draft FCR was publicly noticed this month according to requirements. The purpose of the draft FCR is to allow residential property owners subject to the fee an opportunity to provide updated information about the number of units on their property, since the fee is based on the number of units. The 2015 Fee Collection Report includes changes that property owners have requested throughout the year and during the review of the 2014 FCR. The 2015 Fee Collection Report may be viewed at: <http://stopwaste.org/HHW/2015/FCR>

The names of property owners are not included in the Report to comply with law which restricts information that may be posted on the internet by government agencies.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the WMA Board hold a public hearing on the Fee Collection Report for FY15-16, and approve it with any appropriate corrections.



June 17, 2015

TO: Waste Management Authority
FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

BACKGROUND

Authority officer's terms are for a fiscal year. Since June concludes our fiscal year, it is time for election of new officers, effective July 1st. Pauline Cutter from South County is the current President, Jerry Pentin from East County is the current First Vice President, and Dan Kalb from North County is the current Second Vice President. Authority policy calls for the geographic origin of officers to rotate each year. That is, the next President should be from East County, the next First Vice President from North County, and the next Second Vice President from South County. It is customary, but not required by policy, for each officer to 'advance one level' each year.

North County is defined by the policy as Albany, Berkeley, Oakland, Emeryville, Piedmont and Alameda. South County is defined by the policy as Hayward, San Leandro, Union City, Newark, and Fremont. East County is defined by the policy as Castro Valley Sanitary District, Oro Loma Sanitary District, Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton. The County's geographic designation is determined by the member's supervisorial district boundary.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Authority Board elect officers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

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June 17, 2015

TO: Waste Management Authority Board

FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director

BY: Debra Kaufman, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Legislative Positions -- Update for 2015

Background

At the June 11th Programs and Administration (P&A) Committee and Planning and Organization Committee (P&O)/Recycling Board meetings, staff provided an update on the status of legislation and Agency positions for the first year of the 2015/2016 legislative session of the California Legislature. Agency positions endorsed by the Boards prior to June 11th, and the memo presented on June 11th, available at:

<http://www.stopwaste.org/2015/Legislation/Update.pdf>

Discussion

As staff and the committees discussed on June 11th, the Agency's highest legislative priority is passage of AB 901 with amendments to strengthen local governments' ability to access hauler information from disposal facilities. Staff will provide an update at the June 24th WMA meeting on the status of AB 901 and describe opportunities for Board members to assist in advocating for this bill, should they have the opportunity to do so. Attached is a copy of a sample support letter.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Waste Management Authority hear a staff update on AB 901 at the June meeting and share the attached support letter with their jurisdiction's lobbyist and others as appropriate, after the meeting.

Attachment: AB 901 Sample Support letter

StopWaste is the Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board, and the Energy Council operating as one public agency.

Member Agencies:

Alameda County
Alameda
Albany
Berkeley
Dublin
Emeryville
Fremont
Hayward
Livermore
Newark
Oakland
Piedmont
Pleasanton
San Leandro
Union City
Castro Valley
Sanitary District
Oro Loma
Sanitary District

June 17, 2015

The Honorable Senator Wieckowski
Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 901 (Gordon/Williams): Disposal Reporting – Support, as planned to be amended

Dear Senator Wieckowski and Committee Members,

I am writing to express support for AB 901 if amended, as planned, to provide local governments with access to hauler information from disposal facilities, related to disposal originating in their geographic jurisdiction, subject to strict confidentiality requirements. The bill also provides CalRecycle with enforcement ability if required recycling, composting and disposal information is not provided by disposal facilities and recycling and composting operations and facilities.

AB 901 will help local governments accurately and fairly collect fees to pay for recycling programs and more accurately assess diversion levels. It will also help the solid waste industry by leveling the playing field so that all haulers and landfills pay the fees that they owe.

AB 901 requires disposal facilities to provide local government entities (those involved with implementing AB 939) and the state with disposal weight tag information (identifying haulers, type and quantity of waste). This information is needed to correct mistakes made with respect to jurisdiction-of-origin of waste, collect applicable disposal and recycling fees, and enforce local franchises.

A serious problem faced by operators of landfills and collection fleets is that there are operators who collect waste in violation of local franchise agreements and local ordinances or codes. The proposed language will facilitate enforcement, which will increase gross revenue for franchised operators, and reduce the need for rate increases. This is to the advantage of local governments, rate payers and the majority of landfills and haulers who are doing the right thing.

This information will also aid local governments and the state in more accurately determining recycling rates and gain knowledge about types and quantities of waste being disposed so that recycling programs can be tailored to address those materials.

ATTACHMENT A

This bill is a win/win for local governments and the hauling/recycling community and the state. We urge your "yes" vote on AB 901 which will lead to improved revenue collection for recycling programs around the state, and a level playing field for haulers and landfills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "GW", is positioned above the printed name.

Gary Wolff
Executive Director

cc: Senate EQ members

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DATE: June 16, 2015

TO: The Energy Council

FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director
Wendy Sommer, Deputy Executive Director

BY: Karen Kho, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Bay Area Regional Energy Network Contract Amendment #2

BACKGROUND

On November 19, 2014 the Energy Council adopted a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) for implementation of the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN) program in calendar year 2015. The Energy Council is leading the implementation of the regional multifamily program, which is designed to provide a “middle of the road” participation path in the hard-to-reach multifamily sector. The program is on track to incentivize efficiency upgrades in 8,500 units, exceeding the original 2015 goal of 5,000 units. We anticipate 22% of these units in Alameda County.

DISCUSSION

BayREN requested additional funding to supplement the multifamily program’s approved 2015 budget of \$6.5 million. On May 12, 2015 PG&E filed an advice letter with the California Public Utilities Commission requesting to transfer \$3.5 million to BayREN for the multifamily program.

The Energy Council’s budget for 2015 can now be augmented to serve 3,500 additional multifamily units. If the EC Board wants to move forward, it should authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with ABAG and execute the necessary documents to accept and spend up to an additional \$3.5 million. The funds will be used to provide technical assistance and rebates -- which we are already providing -- but for more residential units. The draft Resolution (attached) authorizes the Executive Director to accept and spend these additional funds.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt the Resolution attached.

**ENERGY COUNCIL
RESOLUTION #EC 2015 –**

**MOVED:
SECONDED:**

AT THE MEETING HELD JUNE 24, 2015

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT AMENDMENT
#2 FOR BAY AREA REGIONAL ENERGY NETWORK (BayREN) AND OTHER RELATED ACTIONS**

WHEREAS, the Energy Council recognizes that it is in the interest of the local, regional, state, and federal agencies to stimulate the economy; create and retain jobs; reduce fossil fuel emissions; and reduce total energy usage and improve energy efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Council was formed to seek funding to develop and implement programs and policies that reduce energy demand, increase energy efficiency, advance the use of clean, efficient and renewable resources, and help create climate resilient communities; and

WHEREAS, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has recognized the need for expanded collaboration with and participation by local governments to achieve market transformation toward energy efficiency as part of its Long Term Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS, in its Decision for Phase I of Rulemaking 13-11-005, the CPUC authorized funding for Regional Energy Networks (RENs) to continue their existing programs in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Council partnered with the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and 8 other county representatives to implement the Bay Area Regional Energy Network (BayREN); and

WHEREAS, with ongoing input from the Energy Council Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Energy Council represents Alameda County jurisdictions within BayREN; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Council has been designated as the lead regional implementer for the multifamily subprogram and multifamily financing pilot, and to conduct local outreach for other subprograms, and

WHEREAS, the regional multifamily program is on track to exceed its original goals and PG&E has proposed to transfer \$3.5 million from other programs to BayREN in 2015, and

WHEREAS, ABAG intends to augment the Energy Council budget to support an additional 3,500 multifamily properties with rebates and technical assistance;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Energy Council hereby authorizes the Executive Director to:

1. Enter into all necessary contracts and agreements with ABAG in order to accept additional funds of up to \$3,500,000, amend the FY 2015-16 budget to add these funds to Project 1347: BayREN.

2. Approve any required time extensions, modifications, or amendments thereto.
3. Allocate the necessary resources to implement and carry out the amended scope of work.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAINED:

Gary Wolff, PE, PhD
Executive Director

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June 17, 2015

TO: Energy Council
FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

BACKGROUND

Energy Council officer's terms are for a fiscal year. Since June concludes our fiscal year, it is time for election of new officers, effective July 1st. Pauline Cutter from San Leandro is the current President, Dan Kalb from Oakland is the First Vice President, and Greg Jones from Hayward is the Second Vice President.

It is customary in the WMA for each officer to 'advance one level' each year, and the Energy Council has followed that pattern so far.

WMA policy requires the geographic origin of officers to include one from each of three defined parts of the County (South, North, and East). The Energy Council decided to consider geographic diversity when it first elected officers, because Livermore, Pleasanton, Oro Loma and CVSan do not belong to the Energy Council, which means that only one of the five 'east county' agencies listed in the WMA policy (Dublin) would be eligible if the definitions of north, south, and east county in that policy were used.

In addition, the Energy Council was interested in ensuring that the officers were not all from large, or small, member agencies. But the dividing line between large and small agencies has not been formally defined for the purpose of electing officers. However, the larger agencies might be defined as those with more than one vote on the Energy Council, in recognition that they have larger populations than the other agencies. The agencies with more than one vote are: Oakland (3), the County (2), the City of Fremont (2), and the City of Hayward (2).

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Energy Council elect officers for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

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JULY 2015
Meetings Schedule

Alameda County Waste Management Authority, The Energy Council, & Source Reduction and Recycling Board

(Meetings are held at StopWaste unless otherwise noted)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3 AGENCY HOLIDAY	4
5	6	7	8	9 9:00 AM Programs & Administration Committee <hr/> 5:30 PM Planning & Organization Committee /Recycling Board Fremont Transfer Station Key Items: 1. Grants to Non-Profits Budget Amendment 2. Tour of Fremont Transfer Station	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 3:00 PM WMA & EC Meeting Key Item: 1. Bags Ordinance Expansion – Budget Amendment	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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June 9, 2015

POLICY/SOCIAL CONTEXT

Coalition Sues California City for Repealing Plastic Bag Ban

Details

Written by [Larry Kaplan](#)

Created on Thursday, 04 June 2015 13:35

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June 2, 2015; [Orange County Breeze](#)

In yet another example of nonprofits resorting to legal action after advocacy and political pressure fail, a coalition of Southern California environmental groups are suing the City of Huntington Beach in Orange County for an inadequate environmental review of the effects of repealing its single-use plastic bag ban.

The groups include [Surfrider Foundation](#), [Orange County Coastkeeper](#), and [Californians Against Waste](#). The action was announced in a press release reprinted in the *Orange County Breeze*.

"Instead of analyzing the impressive benefits that have resulted from the bag ban since it took effect in 2013, and disclosing how the repeal will reverse those benefits...the City disregarded its duty to investigate the environmental repercussions of its action and voted to proceed with a Bag Ban Repeal Ordinance," the article says. The coalition claims that the City "failed to review impacts on marine life, water quality and aesthetics from the reintroduction of single-use plastic bags into the environment."

Huntington Beach's original local bag ban ordinance was passed in 2013 after a high-profile campaign by local environmental groups. Then, last year, California enacted a statewide plastic bag ban that was set to go into effect in July, but the ban was put on hold before it went into effect—that's because a coalition of plastics companies and bag manufacturers secured enough signatures to put the ban to a referendum vote in November 2016, meaning it is, by law, on hold until then.

Huntington Beach is the only local government in California to repeal an existing single-use plastic bag ban while the state waits for the outcome of next year's vote. The lawsuit will be brought under the California Environmental Quality Act.—Larry Kaplan

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Castro Valley sewer fees jump almost 50 percent in four years

By Rebecca Parr rparr@bayareanewsgroup.com

Updated: 05/26/2015 11:03:05 AM PDT

InsideBayArea.com

CASTRO VALLEY -- Residents could see their sewer service fee jump almost 50 percent in four years under a proposed rate hike.

If the sewer fee increase is approved, Castro Valley Sanitary District residential customers will pay \$340 annually starting in July and \$380 in 2016.

The 2016 fee is 46 percent more than the \$260 levied against residential customers in 2012. Sanitary district directors are scheduled to vote on the proposed increase June 16.

Sanitary district board President Dave Sadoff said the increases are needed to cover expenses.

"We have capital improvement costs. The district has 180 miles of pipeline; a lot of it is 50-plus years old, with a 50-year life expectancy," he said. "Our staff is constantly inspecting the lines, looking for failing section that needs to be repaired or replaced. The cost keeps going up and up."

The district also has to comply with state and federal regulations, and it is crucial that the system and equipment are working properly, Sadoff said. The district is contributing \$2 million for required improvements at the wastewater treatment plant it jointly owns with Oro Loma Sanitary District.

"We are making sure that when you flush the toilet, it works," Sadoff said.

Castro Valley Sanitary also is helping pay for a pilot ecotone levee near the wastewater treatment plant, Sadoff said. The levee will provide additional wastewater storage during storms.

Castro Valley Sanitary is paying \$2.45 million of the \$9 million ecotone cost; Oro Loma is contributing \$4.55 million, and a state grant will cover \$2.1 million.

If the district board approves the fee increases, they will go into effect unless a majority of property owners file protest letters.

Castro Valley's proposed \$340 sewer charge is much higher than Oro Loma's, which will go up from \$200 annually to \$206 in July, a 3 percent increase.

"I would love it if our board asked Oro Loma to annex us," said Dan Davini, a Castro Valley Sanitary customer.

Except for Oro Loma, Castro Valley's proposed sewer fees are close to what other agencies charge. Hayward charges its residents \$337.08, and Dublin San Ramon Services District will

increase its fee from \$372.96 to \$382.38 in July. Union Sanitary District, which serves Union City, Fremont and Newark, charges \$357.02 annually.

Not everyone is buying that the district needs the increases.

Marc Crawford, a Castro Valley resident who ran for the sanitary district board, said he has complained for years about its fees. As chairman of the Castro Valley Municipal Council, he said he often hears about restaurants not being able to open in the community because they cannot afford the sanitary district's fees.

Castro Valley Sanitary District charges \$14,000 to connect a house into the sewer system, he said. Oro Loma's fee is \$6,555; Hayward charges \$7,700.

"The district's insatiable appetite for high fees has gotten out of hand," Crawford said.

Davini agreed.

"I'm tired of the nonstop fee increases. Every year in the last four years, they have had substantial sewer increases. What bothers me, there's no good reason for it; we have pretty much a zero rate inflation economy," he said.

The proposed sewer increase comes after the district raised garbage rates 3 percent this spring, from \$36.92 to \$38.07 for a 32-gallon cart starting in July.

"Every year, we look at our rates to see if they need adjusting," district General Manager Roland Williams said. "We look at the cost of delivering garbage service, the equipment, any cost associated with the landfill, fuel and labor, which is a big component. The drivers and the folks who work at Davis Street Transfer Station negotiate salary increases."

Hayward's monthly charge for a 32-gallon residential cart is \$29.81.

"Hayward has the same services with the same company," Crawford said. Waste Management has a franchise agreement with both Castro Valley Sanitary and Hayward.

The board also increased Williams' annual total compensation in March, from \$260,422 last year to \$325,240 in 2017, an increase of almost 23 percent. Total compensation includes salary and all benefits.

The pay raise brings Williams' salary up to what other general managers in similar districts are paid, Sadoff said.

"It was not done willy-nilly. Roland is an attribute to the district; we have won numerous awards under his leadership. We have an excellent staff. We are recognized as a cutting edge and progressive district," Sadoff said.

Contact Rebecca Parr at 510-293-2473 or follow her at [Twitter.com/rdparr1](https://twitter.com/rdparr1).





The Race to Zero Waste

Ample resources make recycling in multifamily properties easier than ever. **BY JENNIFER ROBERTS**

When it comes to recycling, the Lake Wobegon effect may be alive and well in the East Bay. Taking its name from Garrison Keillor's fictional Minnesotan town, where "all the women are strong, all the men are good looking, and all the children are above average," the Lake Wobegon effect refers to a tendency people have to overestimate their own abilities and qualities relative to others.

According to surveys by StopWaste, a public agency that works to reduce waste in Alameda County, East Bay residents think they are doing a great job of recycling. But is that rosy picture a reflection of reality, or are people succumbing to the Lake Wobegon effect when it comes to reporting on their recycling habits?

Crunching the Data on Waste

To get hard numbers on the state of recycling, in 2013 StopWaste launched the Benchmark Service, a data collection and analysis effort that's funded by a small fee levied on garbage accounts in Alameda County. As part of this effort to dig into the data, StopWaste sends out teams of workers to conduct random, anonymous measurements of what's inside residential and commercial garbage containers.

In a nutshell, here's what they found: Some people really are doing an admirable job of keeping recyclables and compostables out of the trash. But most people aren't doing nearly as well as they may think.

In fact, the Benchmark Report released in January 2015 revealed that countywide, 45% of the contents (by weight) in single-family residential garbage containers could have been recycled or composted.

Multifamily properties aren't performing any better — on average, 46% of their "garbage" isn't garbage at all. It's junk mail, jam jars, soup cans, soda bottles and other easily recyclable items that could have been used to make new products. And it's table scraps, fruit and vegetable trimmings, pizza boxes, paper towels and other compostables that have the potential to be transformed into a nutrient-rich soil amendment for local farms.

The Good Stuff

With nearly half the contents of garbage containers not actually garbage, there's more work to

“Today, with recyclables collection service available at all single-family homes and most apartment buildings and businesses, and with compostables collection fast becoming the norm, getting down to near zero waste by 2020 isn’t out of reach.”

be done to reach the ambitious waste reduction goals set by local communities. StopWaste’s target for Alameda County as a whole is that by 2020, less than 10% of what winds up in landfills will be readily recyclable or compostable.

Or as Tom Padia, StopWaste’s Director of Source Reduction and Recycling, puts it, the goal is “less than 10% good stuff in the garbage by 2020.”

“That isn’t a pie in the sky goal,” said Mr. Padia, who has more than 30 years of experience in the recycling and waste management field. “When we measured the contents of garbage containers at single-family homes, we found that residents of some cities are already doing a fantastic job of keeping recyclables out of the garbage.”

StopWaste’s Benchmark research found that in 2014, five communities — the cities of Alameda, Emeryville and Piedmont as well as unincorporated areas of the county served by the Oro Loma and Castro Valley Sanitary Districts — had already achieved an average of 5% or less recyclables in the garbage containers of single-family homes.

In some cities, however, StopWaste found as much as 11% recyclables in the garbage. There is also more work to be done on the compostables side, with single-family residential garbage bins containing anywhere from 35% to 43% table scraps, food-soiled paper and other compostables. Curbside collection of compostables is a relatively new service, so for some residents it’s not yet an ingrained habit, said Mr. Padia.

For apartment buildings, city-by-city data isn’t available, but countywide, the Benchmark Service reported an average of 18% recyclables and 28% compostables in the garbage containers of multifamily buildings.

How Low Can We Go?

While StopWaste’s goal applies to the whole county, some cities have set their own recycling goals. The City of Berkeley is aiming for zero waste by 2020, which it defines as all discarded material recycled, composted or reused rather than sent to the landfill. Zero waste is something of a buzzword these days, and although the concept seems clear, in practice zero doesn’t always mean zero. In Oakland, a Zero Waste Strategic Plan adopted in

2006 calls for a 90% reduction in waste sent to the landfill by 2020. Sticklers for accuracy may prefer the term “near zero waste.”

“Whether you call it zero waste or near zero, reducing discards to the landfill by 90% or more will be cause for celebration,” Mr. Padia said.

But how low can the East Bay really go in five years? The encouraging news is that recycling has come a long way since 1990, when Alameda County voters approved the Alameda County Waste Reduction and Recycling Act — better known as Measure D. Back then, only 14% of discarded materials were diverted from the county’s landfills.

Today, with recyclables collection service available at all single-family homes and most apartment buildings and businesses, and with compostables collection fast becoming the norm, getting down to near zero waste by 2020 isn’t out of reach.

To get that low, consistency is the key. “We need to keep good stuff out of the garbage — and keep garbage out of the recycling and green containers — all the time, not just some of the time,” Mr. Padia said. “It needs to become second nature.”

Boosting the Local Economy

Recycling has historically been pigeonholed as an environmental issue, with benefits ranging from resource conservation and pollution prevention to reduction in energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. Gary Wolff, StopWaste’s Executive Director, doesn’t downplay the environmental reasons to recycle but he’s passionate about giving equal time to the economic arguments.

“Local property owners, employers and residents need to know that every year, Alameda County residents and businesses dump about \$70 million of readily recyclable and compostable items in the garbage,” said Dr. Wolff, an engineer with a Master’s Degree from Stanford and a Ph.D. in Resource Economics from UC Berkeley.

That waste of resources represents a lost opportunity to inject extra income into the local economy.

“Recycling has a ripple effect,” Dr. Wolff said. “More recycling activity means that recycling and composting facilities can buy more equipment and hire more workers. More money in workers’ pockets means more spending locally on everything from A’s tickets to groceries and housing.”

Dr. Wolff points to economic studies that describe a multiplier effect: every \$1 added to the local economy creates two times more economic activity. “Sending \$70 million of recyclables and compostables to the landfill each year is like depriving our local economy of \$140 million or more,” he said.

Property owners and business people who aren’t moved by the environmental arguments for improving their facility’s recycling rates might just be motivated by the economic case.

Recycling Rules for Apartment Buildings

Today, most apartment buildings in the East Bay provide

recycling collection service for their tenants. In fact, since 2012, mandatory recycling has been state law for multifamily properties with five or more units. Local governments have flexibility in how they implement this law. In Alameda County, a local ordinance that covers the entire county except Dublin and part of the Oro Loma Sanitary District requires landlords to provide containers and service of sufficient number, size and frequency to handle the amount of recyclable materials produced at the property.

Landlords are not responsible for making sure that their tenants actually sort their recyclables from the trash, but they do have to make recycling service available and convenient. To encourage residential tenants to do a better job of sorting, landlords can let them know about StopWaste's Ready Set Recycle website (ReadySetRecycle.org), which has recycling information, tips and videos.

Owners of apartment buildings with fewer than five units are encouraged but not required to provide recycling collection service.

"Our research shows that local residents believe recycling is important," said Mr. Padia. "It makes sense for owners of all multifamily properties, regardless of size, to make it easy for their tenants to recycle. It's a simple way to cultivate tenant satisfaction and retention."

Starting in July 2014, many East Bay cities have also begun requiring apartment buildings with five or more units to provide collection service for organics—the waste industry's term for food scraps and compostable paper. Berkeley started requiring organics collection at apartment buildings with five or more units as of July 1, 2014, while Oakland's new organics collection services kick in on July 1, 2015 (see article on page 11).

By now, there has been extensive outreach to apartment building owners and property managers, and most are already in compliance with the rules for recycling, and where applicable, organics collection. If a landlord has questions about compliance or wants help improving a property's recycling program, Mr. Padia recommends calling the local garbage and recycling service provider. The hauler can explain the requirements, and

Case Study

THE JOHN STEWART COMPANY FINDS THAT GREEN O&M REDUCES WASTE, SAVES MONEY



The John Stewart Company, whose management portfolio contains over 350 properties in California, received a StopWaste Business Efficiency award in 2013 for Excellence in Multifamily Property Management.

To quantify the costs and benefits of going green, the company compared utility bills at three Alameda County properties where they had instituted comprehensive green operations and maintenance practices with three similarly sized and located properties without the same level of commitment to green practices.

Two of the green properties were located in the city of Alameda—Shinsei Gardens, a LEED Platinum certified building with 39 apartments and the 63-unit Breakers at Bayport. The third, Fox Courts, is an 80-unit development in Oakland. All three properties were developed and are owned by Berkeley-based Resources for Community Development.

The company found significant savings at the green properties, with garbage costs 31% lower, and water and sewer costs 26% and 71% lower, respectively. Electricity expenses were 61% lower, while gas bills were 21% lower.

"We are committed to maintaining safe work places for employees and healthy communities for residents," said Jack Gardner, the company's President and CEO. "And we are dedicated to green operations through staff training, resident outreach and training, and continued analysis of best practices and opportunities for cost savings."

As part of this commitment, a number of The John Stewart Company's staff have attended the Multifamily Green Property Management Training sponsored by StopWaste. The next training takes place in Emeryville on May 18 to 21, 2015. Find out more at MultifamilyGreen.org/training. **RH**

“provide free assistance to make sure you have the right number and size containers, that they are placed so that residents and the hauler’s trucks have easy access to them, and that the pickup frequency makes sense for your building’s situation,” he said.

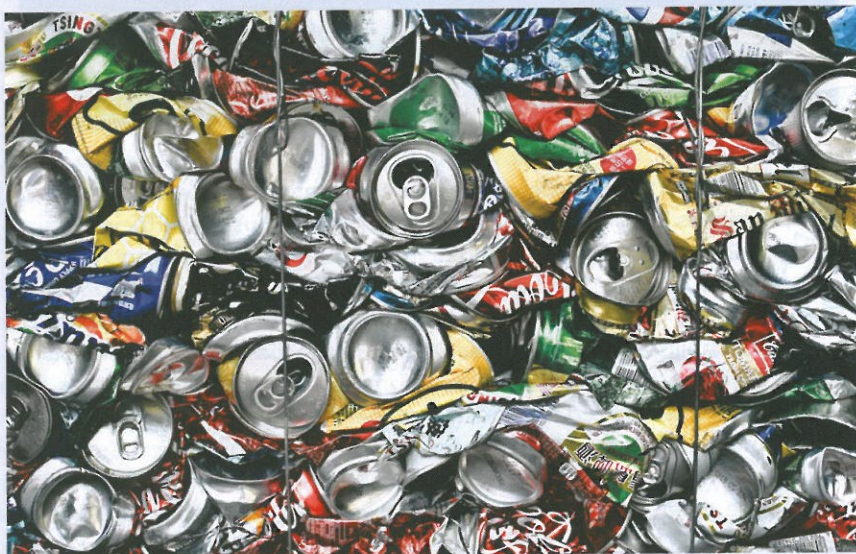
StopWaste has also set up a website, RecyclingRulesAC.org, with compre-

hensive information about mandatory recycling for businesses and multifamily properties in Alameda County, as well as free support materials such as posters and customizable flyers for notifying tenants about recycling and organics collection.

At Carriage House Apartments, a gated community in Fremont with 123 rental units, management worked closely

with the waste service provider’s recycling representative to improve their recycling program. They replaced the site’s recycling carts with larger bins to increase capacity and used flyers, posters and signs to explain recycling procedures and encourage residents to recycle more. As a result, the development more than doubled their recycling volume, reducing garbage by 312 cubic yards per year and saving over \$4,500 annually. These efforts earned Carriage House Apartments a StopWaste Business Efficiency Award in 2014 for Waste Reduction at a Multifamily Property.

Recycling Help at Your Disposal



MANDATORY RECYCLING RULES FOR MULTIFAMILY PROPERTY OWNERS:

- Alameda County: RecyclingRulesAC.org
- Unincorporated areas of Contra Costa County: cccouny.us/depart/cd/recycle/mcr.htm
- Incorporated areas of Contra Costa County: Check your local city’s website

RECYCLING TIPS FOR RESIDENTS:

- Alameda County: ReadySetRecycle.org
- Contra Costa County: cccouny.us/4911/Recycling

RECYCLEWHERE? ONLINE SEARCH TOOL:

- RecycleWhere.org

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL:

- Alameda County: StopWaste.org/hhw or (800) 606-6606
- Contra Costa County: (800) 750-4096

How to Recycle Everything Else

The mandatory recycling requirements apply to everyday recyclables and compostables such as cans, bottles, paper, food scraps and yard debris. But getting to near zero waste will require tackling all branches of the waste stream, including debris from apartment renovation activities as well as furniture and other bulky items left behind when tenants move out.

To help rental property owners, businesses and residents appropriately dispose of these items, Contra Costa County, StopWaste and other Bay Area local government agencies jointly fund an online search tool called RecycleWhere? (RecycleWhere.org), which provides recycling, reuse and proper disposal options for everything from batteries, TVs and couches to drywall, wood scraps and broken appliances.

There is even a free service for residential property owners to safely dispose of their tenant’s household hazardous waste, such as paints, household and garden pesticides, batteries, fluorescent bulbs and adhesives. For information, Alameda County rental property owners can go to StopWaste.org/hhw or call (800) 606-6606. Contra Costa County landlords should call (800) 750-4096.

With all of these services available, keeping good stuff out of the garbage is getting easier by the day. **RH**

Jennifer Roberts is the author of *Good Green Homes* and other books about green building design. She can be reached at jennifer@jenniferroberts.com

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San Leandro falconer wards off seagulls from transfer station

By Rebecca Parr rparr@bayareanewsgroup.com

Updated: 06/02/2015 08:07:49 AM PDT

InsideBayArea.com

Click photo to enlarge

SAN LEANDRO -- As soon as they spot Robert Sobbe's red Honda pull up, hundreds of seagulls fly off from the tops of buildings at Waste Management's Davis Street transfer station.

"I've trained the birds to know who I am. They recognize my car," said Sobbe, a falconer hired to do bird abatement at the facility where trucks dump trash and green waste that is later carted to a landfill and to compost facilities.

The seagulls are attracted to the food mixed in green waste the trash hauler collects from throughout the East Bay. Waste Management trucks deposit the green waste inside a large building, where it is collected and then trucked to compost facilities in San Jose, Modesto and Novato. The birds fly inside the open doors of the Organics Processing Building, said Rebecca Jewell, recycling program manager at the transfer station, officially called Davis Street Resource Recovery Complex.



Two-year-old juvenile Harris's hawk Trog is one of Robert Sobbe's trained hawks that he brings to the Davis Street Transfer Center in San

"Seagulls can eat just about anything, but they especially like chicken bones," Sobbe said. "In a big pile of trash, they'll go right into the pile and pull out a chicken bone."

He brings his trained Harris's hawks from his Fairfield home to the transfer station to disperse the seagulls, working from 6 a.m. to about 11 a.m. Monday through Friday. The falconer seldom has to release his two hawks; the mere sight of them is enough.

"If I pull a hawk out of the car and it flaps its wings, the birds clear out. They know darn well what it is," Sobbe said. "What would scare a bird more than another bird that wants to eat it? It's like turning a great white shark loose in a swimming pool."

On a recent day, he wore a heavy leather glove on his left hand, with his 2-year-old hawk named Trog perched on it. The tethered hawk kept moving his head in short jerks, eyeing everything around him.

The hawks are trained to scatter the birds but not catch them. "My birds aren't hungry enough to kill but hungry enough to chase. Then they give up, and I can call them back," Sobbe said.

"We don't want them to catch anything, just chase. This is nonlethal -- the green way of abatement," he said.

The transfer station is near Oakland International Airport.

"The National Transportation Safety Board really wants us to control the bird population," Jewell said.

"They don't live here; they don't sleep here. We can only do so much."

If a bird gets sucked into a plane's engine, it can cause the engine to die. A famous bird strike was the so-called Miracle on the Hudson in 2009, when a flock of geese disabled both engines on a US Airways Airbus A319 shortly after takeoff from New York's LaGuardia Airport. Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, of Danville, and First Officer Jeff Skiles glided the airliner to a splashdown landing on the Hudson River. All 155 people aboard survived.



Robert Sobbe, hawk trainer, holds his Harris hawk, Trog, a 2-year-old juvenile, at the Davis Street Transfer Center in San Leandro, Calif. on

Abatement also is a condition of the station's city permit, Jewell said.

Starlings and pigeons frequent the site, but they are far outnumbered by the gulls. Sobbe estimates 3,000 seagulls show up at the transfer station in the winter, with fewer in the spring when the birds are nesting in the Farallon Islands.

The seagulls go back and forth between the transfer station, located on the north end of San Leandro, near the Oakland Coliseum, where they regularly show up during the seventh inning of baseball games.

Sobbe's interest in falconry began as a child growing up in San Lorenzo, where he would train the birds in what were then open fields. He practiced the sport only as a hobby until about eight years ago.

The 59-year-old first worked in bird abatement for a different company before starting his own business, Skyguard Bird Control. In addition to owning the Harris's hawks, Sobbe is licensed to have two trained peregrine falcons, which he only uses for sport falconry.

The falconer also waves a large plastic white lure attached to a long rod to ward off the birds at the Davis Street site. He made the lure, which resembles a propeller with strings, out of recycled materials from the transfer station.

"That gets the birds' attention," Sobbe said.

But the effect is only temporary.

"As soon as I start the car to leave, the birds come around again big time," he said.



Two-year-old juvenile Harris hawk, Trog, who

Contact Rebecca Parr at 510-293-2473 or follow her at [Twitter.com/rdparr1](https://twitter.com/rdparr1).

How to outsmart waste

Tom Szaky

Saturday, June 13, 2015 - 12:30am

Shutterstock Phaijittra

This is an excerpt from "Outsmart Waste: The Modern Idea of Garbage and How to Think Our Way Out of It" by Tom Szaky. Copyright 2014. With permission of the publisher, Berrett-Koehler Publishers. All rights reserved.

The art of upcycling

The key difference between upcycling and reusing waste is that with upcycling the original intention of the object changes. For example, if a painter uses a painted canvas for a new painting, he is reusing the canvas. But if instead that same painter takes the canvas apart, uses the wood to make a frame and uses the fabric to make a purse — that's upcycling.

Upcycling is not a new idea

The idea of upcycling isn't all that new. People have been upcycling for thousands of years. In fact, before the Industrial Revolution (and before processes typically needed for recycling became readily available), reuse and upcycling were common practices. There were no landfills or incinerators to speak of, and the idea of "disposable goods" simply didn't exist in the way it does today. If your pants wore out, the remaining material could be used as cleaning rags or to make another piece of clothing. If a leg broke off your kitchen table, the wood that originally made the table could be used to make a shelf.

The concept of waste is a luxury, and this is perhaps why upcycling is more commonplace in poor countries than in rich ones. If you don't have the resources to buy new objects, you will fulfill your needs by looking at what is available and using that — getting quite creative in the process.

Leave your assumptions at the door

The best way to wrap your head around upcycling is to stop looking at objects as waste. Take a tip from nature and look at your "waste" as a valuable material — an output whose initial intention doesn't need to determine its current purpose. Look at what that object is but try to ignore what it was. In fact, try to pretend that you don't even know what it was made for in the first place.

For example, from the point of view of upcycling, a chip bag is not food packaging; it's a flexible plastic film. It is a waterproof, colorful, thin and easy-to-tear material with very high tensile strength. The more obvious applications for such a material are weaving and sewing, but the possibilities are endless.

Take another example: a bicycle chain. If you didn't know it was made as a key component of a bicycle, you would be freed to see it without that lens — as a heavy-duty metal chain that connects to itself and can easily be made into smaller sections. Jewelry, pots, clocks and a host of other upcycled objects only begin to scratch the surface of the once-a-bicycle-chain's uses.

Or how about a vinyl record? If you didn't know that these objects were made to play music (which may be the case with many younger people), you'd just see a black plastic disc about the size of a Frisbee. If you did some experimenting, you'd find that it can be molded after applying a little heat with a hair dryer. What once might have showered bedrooms and dance clubs with music can now be easily formed into a bowl, a plate, or a clock. This list goes on and on and is really limited only by our imagination.

The business of upcycling

People have been upcycling for as long as new objects have broken or, recently, gone out of fashion, but the field is really just picking up from a commercial perspective. In the past decade, socially conscious organizations have made upcycling their business. This first began with various nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in poorer countries such as Mexico and the Philippines.

Beginning in September 2004, the People's Recovery, Empowerment, Development Assistance (PREDA) Foundation, a charitable organization that was founded in the Philippines in 1974, began producing, selling and shipping items made from upcycled juice pouches — a waste stream just as common in the Philippines as in the United States.

PREDA trains people to collect used juice pouches (including many students, helping their schools earn money in the process), pays them for their efforts and teaches them about the environment. After the collected pouches are cleaned and sanitized, PREDA makes them available to women who produce handcrafted items. Since 2004 PREDA has sold thousands of upcycled products worldwide.

Mitz, named for a Nahuatl word meaning “for you,” was founded in 2003 (a year before PREDA) by Judith Achar. She started Mitz to fund Casa de Niños de Palo Solo, a Montessori school in Mexico that has provided community service for low-income students since 1979.

Searching for ways to develop the community and have its members share in the work, Judith brought together a group of mothers to manufacture everyday articles from materials thrown out by local schools and business. The primary products are handwoven bags made from various food-packaging wrappers.

Upcycling as an industry is not confined to places such as Mexico and the Philippines; people in more-developed regions of the world are also getting into the business. In 1993 graphic designer brothers Markus and Daniel Freitag were on the lookout for a messenger bag. Inspired by the colored truck tarps that they saw on the highways in Switzerland, they started FREITAG, a highly successful company that now makes various upcycled bags available all around the world.

But the list doesn't stop with truck tarps and messenger bags. Chaba Décor upcycles wood from demolished boats and buildings to make picture frames and other items for home decor. Ecoist, similar in function to Mitzi, weaves candy wrappers into fashionable bags. Global Exchange upcycles old magazines into bowls, flip-flops into doormats, soda cans into wallets and much more.

The Greenshop upcycles print blankets, billboards and inner tubes to make pet collars, laptop covers and notebook folders. New York-based in2green creates cotton apparel, blankets and totes using yarn made from T-shirt clippings. Transglass makes beautiful vases and other glass pieces from old wine bottles.

Whit McLeod repurposes oak wine casks and barrels to make unique furniture. Trash Amps upcycles soda cans and Chinese-takeout boxes into portable speakers for MP3 players and guitar amps. Upcycle Products repurposes large food barrels into rain barrels and composters. And my company, TerraCycle, a global leader in upcycling, makes everything from cookie-wrapper kites to wine barrel composters.

The list of upcycled products is at least as long as the list of waste product materials that can be used in their construction (and the companies doing it). Fortunately, you don't have to be a company or an NGO to leverage the benefits of upcycling yourself.

Leveraging upcycling as an individual

It takes something of a do-it-yourself (DIY) mentality to successfully upcycle at home. Add that to your newfound perspective on waste and, voilà, you are ready to outsmart waste at home by upcycling. Upcycling at home is even more environmentally friendly than having an upcycling company do it because you avoid the environmental impacts that come with transporting waste to the upcycling company and then transporting the upcycled product back to you.

The key to successful at-home upcycling is to first separate out your garbage. Try to keep the organics and the inorganics separate. Even if you don't compost, consider having one garbage can for organic waste and one for inorganics. This simple act of separating also will make it easier in the event that you do eventually start composting.

Once you've started to separate your garbage, consider cleaning it out before putting it into your garbage can, only now your "garbage can" isn't really a garbage can anymore — it's a "raw material storage unit." With this in mind, try to organize it as you would raw materials in a workshop. After you've removed the yogurt from the yogurt cups and the chocolate from the candy wrappers, try to organize the waste into three basic categories.

Flexible packaging: Everything from chip bags to candy wrappers to the notorious plastic shopping bag — if you can crumple it, it fits in the flexible-packaging category. If you keep the material types together (chip bags with chip bags and plastic bags with plastic bags), you can actually fuse them together by putting them between pieces of waxed paper and running a warm iron over them. The resulting material then can be sewn, without tearing, into totes, wallets, lunch boxes and just about anything you can imagine.

Rigid packaging: Yogurt tubs and plastic bottles are great examples of rigid packaging. Although rigid objects cannot be sewn, they are great building blocks both literally and figuratively. If you punch a drainage hole in the bottom, yogurt cups and margarine tubs can be used to start seedlings or grow full-sized plants. Plastic bottles can be cut in half and made into candleholders or gardening tools and also can make great building blocks for sheds, fences and even homes if filled with sand or something similar.

Everything else: Because flexible and rigid packaging constitutes most home waste, whatever doesn't fit in either category can go together. Because the range of waste types you can encounter here is enormous, "everything else" can be a little more challenging. But don't be alarmed — almost everything has upcycling potential. Wine corks can be made into corkboards, bottle caps into art and jewelry, pens into chandeliers, and on and on. If you are having any trouble thinking of what to create with a particular waste item, go to your favorite search engine, type in the name of the waste stream followed by the word "upcycled," and you'll likely find a whole slew of ideas.

Categories for home waste upcycling

- Organics
- Inorganic flexible packaging
- Inorganic rigid packaging
- Everything else

With proper separation, a little cleaning and a DIY spirit, you effectively can upcycle most of your garbage into useful items — and are well on your way to eliminating the idea of waste in your home.

Leveraging upcycling at work

Upcycling isn't limited to your home and is a sustainable practice that also can be brought to the workplace. TerraCycle, for example, operates offices in 24 countries, and all of our offices are designed and furnished with entirely upcycled materials. The benefit of outfitting workspaces with upcycled material (beyond having our U.S. headquarters being called one of the "coolest offices in the world" by the New York Times) is that it costs much less than traditional interior design options. When you use waste material, your raw material costs are very low, many times free and sometimes even negative.

Beyond using waste to design an office, many companies are in the business of making stuff. Factories, for instance, almost always generate pre-consumer waste (or "factory waste") in the process of production.

Pre-consumer waste is generated not just by the factory at the end of the supply chain but by all of the factories along the entire supply chain and typically represents 3 to 10 percent of annual production.

The great thing about pre-consumer waste is that it is typically clean and best of all it's sorted — it's truckloads of clean labels or clean bottles if you are in the shampoo business, and it's truckloads of trimmings and unused fabrics if you are in the clothing business. Whatever it is, it is prime raw material for upcycling. Consider upcycling the waste your workplace produces, or ask a company that upcycles to help you out.

Don't limit your upcycling ambition to just your home. Outsmarting waste has no boundaries and can be applied individually and organizationally. While there are many ways to upcycle, and a huge number of items can be upcycled, there are a few limitations.

The limits of upcycling

Upcycling is more of an art than a science and, unfortunately, it does have its limits. First, not everyone is a do-it-yourselfer who is willing to separate and clean waste for upcycling purposes. Not only is upcycling limited by the number of people who are willing to do it but the current market size (as demonstrated by the companies that are in the upcycling business) is very small — perhaps because it's a relatively new business concept or perhaps because the market actually is quite small.

Another limit to upcycling is that it's a relatively low-volume solution compared with the total volume of waste out there. Even if every backpack, pencil case and tote bag in the world were made out of upcycled juice pouches, that would still represent only about 10 percent of all the juice pouches produced, not to mention that an upcycled backpack covered with logos doesn't appeal to everyone.

Finally, not everything actually can be upcycled. Used chewing gum, diapers and cigarettes cannot technically be upcycled in the same way an old barrel or a plastic bag can.

Regardless of the limits, if you believe in the idea of outsmarting waste by upcycling, you can support it as a practice by buying upcycled goods. This is where that almighty vote you cast by buying stuff comes into play.

Almost any product you can imagine has an upcycled counterpart; it just may take a little time to find it.

For the big-volume solution to garbage, especially the garbage that can't be reused or upcycled, we move down the hierarchy of waste — to recycling.

(The limits of upcycling):

— Not everyone is willing to separate and clean waste.

- It is a low-volume solution compared with the total volume of waste.
- Not everything can be upcycled.