

APPROVED

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

Thursday, July 12, 2018

9:00 A.M.

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

Members Present:

Castro Valley Sanitary District	Dave Sadoff
City of Berkeley	Kriss Worthington
City of Livermore	Bob Carling
City of Oakland	Dan Kalb
City of Newark	Mike Hannon
Oro Loma Sanitary District	Shelia Young
City of Pleasanton	Jerry Pentin
City of San Leandro	Deborah Cox

Absent:

County of Alameda	Keith Carson
City of Dublin	Melissa Hernandez
City of Fremont	Vinnie Bacon
City of Union City	Lorrin Ellis

Staff Present:

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director
Tom Padia, Deputy Executive Director
Justin Lehrer, Senior Program Analyst
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

1. Convene Meeting

Chair Shelia Young called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Public Comments

There were none.

3. Approval of the Draft Minutes of June 14, 2018 (Pat Cabrera)

Board member Cox made the motion to approve the draft minutes of June 14, 2018 with the following correction. Board member Sadoff seconded and the motion carried 7-0 (Ayes: Carling,

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Cox, Hannon, Pentin, Sadoff, Worthington, Young. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bacon, Carson, Ellis, Hernandez, Kalb).

Correction: Replace Board member Oddie with Board member Sadoff for the vote count in items 3&5.

4. Food Service Packaging, Litter and Marine Debris (Justin Lehrer)

This item is for information only.

Justin Lehrer provided an overview of the staff report and presented a PowerPoint presentation. A link to the report and the presentation is available here: [Food-Service-Packaging-Litter-Presentation-07-12-18](#).

A link to the topic brief is available here: [Food-Packaging-Topic-Brief-July-2018](#)

(Board member Kalb arrived during the presentation).

Board member Pentin commented with respect to the top three challenges (reduction of plastics production, alternatives to toxics in plastics, and proper recycling), in what areas can the agency have the greatest impact. Mr. Lehrer stated that that local governments as well as other countries are leading the charge on single use plastics reduction policy, and with respect to toxics, although local efforts may not move the needle with the manufacturers of these products, local groundswell leads to influence and allows us to have a seat at the table. With regard to proper recycling, we can have an impact at the local level and working with the member agencies. Mr. Lehrer added the City of Berkeley is considering a broad-reaching foodware ordinance that would not only affect straws but all types of foodware packaging. Feedback from local businesses was supportive in theory but cautioned that the cost on wages and labor would create an adverse effect on the businesses. Board member Worthington commented that developing an effective campaign for bringing your own take-out container similar to the reusable bag campaign could affect behavior change. Board member Worthington added there have been conversations with several chain entities regarding building a brand for take-out containers that could not only be profitable for the business but also contribute to the mission of reusable foodware. Mr. Lehrer stated that voluntary approaches can be leveraged with broader approaches. Ms. Sommer inquired if there was any discussion regarding liability issues when using your own containers. Board member Worthington stated the local store manager forwarded the issue to counsel and will report back on information regarding the issue of liability. Ms. Sommer added perhaps this could be one of the areas amenable to legislation similar to the Good Samaritan law for food donation.

Board member Carling thanked Mr. Lehrer and staff for the presentation and accompanying articles. Board member Hannon stated that as we start moving initiatives forward as a Board we may want to consider doing something county-wide that would send a message not only locally but state-wide that we are moving forward as a Board. Board member Pentin stated that as we look at priority setting we should as a Board focus on waste reduction and toxics and the impact that we could have on a local and regional scale. Ms. Sommer commented on the importance of the circular economy and the upcoming VERGE conference and strongly encouraged Board members to attend in order to learn how we can apply these principles to our programs. Mr. Lehrer added with respect to the circular economy that it ensures that recycling is happening in a way that creates new products without toxics. Chair Young inquired about what happens to electronics. Mr. Padia stated that he is consulting with various entities to find out what is happening with electronics recycling and will put together a brief presentation at a future meeting. Chair Young added that our biggest challenge is the rest of the country and added the information presented today may not even reach the residents of Alameda County and inquired if there is an opportunity to make a video to share

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with other groups and boards to reach a broader audience. Chair Young inquired about the restrictions/bans that China has placed on our materials. Mr. Padia stated that China had placed a moratorium for a month on all scrap materials but are now accepting double sorted commercial corrugated loads from warehouses in the US but nothing from mixed commercial or residential recycling centers. They have announced intent to cease all scrap imports within a few years – fibers, plastics and metals - and the overlay of the trade wars is not helping things as well. Mr. Padia added all of our scrap materials from the municipal markets are not going to China, they are going elsewhere.

Chair Young thanked Mr. Lehrer for a very informative discussion and asked that the presentation be made available on the agency website. Board member Kalb requested that the six bills mentioned in the staff report be sent to the Board. Board member Pentin inquired if staff would be willing to make a presentation to city councils. Mr. Lehrer stated yes.

5. Member Comments

Chair Young congratulated Mr. Padia on his impending award for Recycler of the Year. Ms. Sommer stated that the award is given by the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) and will be presented at the CRRA Conference on Saturday, July 28 at the Oakland Marriot. Ms. Sommer stated that she would forward an invitation to the Board. Mr. Padia added that he is a co-awardee with Susan Kattchee, former StopWaste staffer and recently retired Deputy Public Works Director, City of Oakland.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.