



DATE: September 10, 2014
TO: Recycling Board
FROM: Gary Wolff, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Board Member Report of Conference Attendance

BACKGROUND

Board Member's Sherman and O'Donnell attended the California Resource Recovery Association's Zero Waste conference in San Jose, August 3-6, 2014. Board Member Sherman provided a written overview of his experience. The overview is attached to the staff memo. Board Member O'Donnell did not provide a written overview but may have some experiences to share verbally.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for the information of the Board.

I attended the California Resource Recovery Association's Zero Waste conference in San Jose, Aug 3-6, 2014.

Here's an overview of some of what I learned:

1. Interest in food waste reduction and organics recovery and processing continues to grow.
2. At the state legislative level, a few bills that have a chance of passing could result in a much greater supply of commercial organics and a phasing out of recycling diversion credit for alternative daily landfill cover by 2020.
3. At the state regulatory level, the major draft revisions to the composting regulations are nearly done, and it behooves all interested parties to examine and comment on the extensive and substantive proposed revisions closely this year.
4. StopWaste's comprehensive approach to implementing the Alameda County Mandatory Recycling Ordinance drew a packed audience, with questions and comments from the audience regarding enforcement, education and outreach, and how to deal with difficult challenges. Clearly, StopWaste is a key leader in the transition from a voluntary program used by some customers to required participation by all.
5. The recent vote by Oakland's City Council to award of Oakland's trash, recycling, and organics collection and processing franchises to California Waste Solutions over City staff's recommendation of Waste Management came as a surprise. Several people wondered aloud whether this is the right time for StopWaste to buy or lease-to-buy the Davis Street Transfer Station from Waste Management.
6. Overall, from various other presentations and the tenor of private discussions I held, the field continues to move in the direction of looking for ways to work across environmental media—land, water, energy—as it takes incremental steps toward greater focus on integrative resource management instead of the sector topic of solid waste management.



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