

APPROVED

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

Thursday, October 8, 2020

9:00 A.M.

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

Members Present:

City of Alameda	Jim Oddie
City of Albany	Nick Pilch
County of Alameda	Scott Haggerty (alternate)
City of Berkeley	Susan Wengraf
City of Dublin	Melissa Hernandez
City of Emeryville	Dianne Martinez
City of Newark	Mike Hannon
Oro Loma Sanitary District	Shelia Young
City of Pleasanton	Jerry Pentin
City of Union City	Emily Duncan, Chair

Members Absent:

City of Fremont	Jenny Kassin
City of Piedmont	Tim Rood

Staff Present:

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
Timothy Burroughs, Deputy Director
Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager
Justin Lehrer, Operations Manager
Meghan Starkey, Senior Management Analyst
Arless Dunn, Clerk of the Board

Others Participating:

Jason Schmelzer, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange
Priscilla Quiroz, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

1. Convene Meeting

Chair Emily Duncan called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and explained the process that would be utilized during the meeting. A link to the process is available here: [Virtual-Meetings-Instructions](#)

2. Public Comments

There were no public comments on the remote call and no public comments were received via the public comments email address.

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3. Approval of the Draft Minutes of September 10, 2020 (Pat Cabrera)

There were no public comments on this item. Board member Wengraf made the motion to approve the draft minutes of July 9, 2020. Board member Haggerty seconded and the motion carried 10-0. The Clerk called the role:

(Ayes: Duncan, Haggerty, Hannon, Hernandez, Martinez, Oddie, Pentin, Pilch, Wengraf, Young. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Kassan, Rood).

4. 2020 Legislative Year in Review (Jeff Becerra)

This item is for information only.

Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager, provided an overview of the staff report and introduced agency lobbyists, Jason Schmelzer and Pricilla Quiroz. Mr. Schmelzer and Ms. Quiroz were available to answer any questions. A link to the staff report is available here: [2020-Legislative-Year-Review.pdf](#)

Board member Hannon inquired about AB 1672 and what caused the bill to die in appropriations. Mr. Schmelzer stated there is no good reason why the bill died and they plan to introduce it again next year. Board member Hannon commented that SB 54/AB 1080 had received significant opposition and asked that going forward staff provide information regarding any opposition affecting the legislation. Board member Hannon inquired about AB 793 (Ting) and inquired if it addressed the lack of availability of recycling centers for customers and the ability for customers to receive the redemption value of plastic bottles. Mr. Becerra stated that AB 793 was fairly narrow in focus as it only ensured that adequate recycled content was added to the containers. Mr. Becerra added that it was intentional for the bill to not focus on reducing the use of single use containers or food ware as SB 54/AB 1080 is the legislation that focuses on reducing single use food ware, as well as possibly addressing some of the issues related to the bottle bill. Mr. Becerra stated that the opposition to SB 54/AB 1080 was mostly from the producers as they would have been responsible for the end of life of the product as well as the recycled content. Mr. Schmelzer stated that in 2021, the bottle bill should be highlighted with a focus on increasing recycling centers. Mr. Schmelzer added, with regard to SB 54/AB 1080, there was opposition from the haulers as well. Board member Young asked when bills that affect sanitation agencies are introduced, are the legislators invited to tour the facilities to witness the effects the wipes have on the workers as well as having to raise rates to support the equipment. Mr. Schmelzer stated that they provide pictures and often times he also will include information on occupational safety and health issues. Board member Young stated that there are people in the Bay Area that are knowledgeable about the issue of wipes and would be willing to appear before the legislature. Chair Duncan inquired about the next steps for the cities with regard to SB 1383. Mr. Becerra stated that there have been conversations with CalRecycle regarding the challenges cities could face with implementation. CalRecycle's response was that their hands were tied due to the language written in the statute, and they only had flexibility with enforcement. Staff will provide more information when we return to the Board in November as we will be discussing joining a group that may draft legislation requesting to delay implementation of SB 1383.

There were no public comments on this item. Chair Duncan thanked staff for the report.

5. Program Evaluation Update (Meghan Starkey)

This item is for information only.

Wendy Sommer provided background on the conventional evaluation methods such as waste characterization studies and waste audits to help inform our work. These methods provide insight into what ends up in the landfill, but as our agency put more emphasis on upstream programs and rely on

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community outreach efforts, it becomes harder to evaluate success. Moving forward, we need an evaluation process that goes beyond counting tons. Meghan Starkey provided an overview of the staff report and presented a PowerPoint presentation. A link to the report and the presentation is available here: [Program-Evaluation-Update.pdf](#)

Board member Hannon stated that when looking downstream at disposal, we need to focus on strengthening the marketability of the recyclable materials by ensuring that the recycling stream is clean and free of contamination. Board member Young commented that Oro Loma Sanitary District is preparing to contract with Cascadia Consulting to do a deep dive with about 200 loads in their district to determine the issues of contamination with regard to SB 1383 and inquired if they should wait until program decisions are confirmed. Ms. Starkey stated that we are doing a deep dive of our programs and added contamination will continue to be an ongoing issue and encouraged Oro Loma to proceed with their study, with a focus on weight. Board member Young added that she may make a request that Ms. Starkey present the current presentation to the Oro Loma board as the information is very helpful and effective. Board member Pilch stated that he concurs with Board member Hannon regarding focusing on the economics of materials management and inquired if increasing the recycled content in materials would help the market value of the materials. Mr. Becerra stated that increasing the amount of recycled content in materials would help with the circular economy but recyclable materials are a commodity and those markets tend to fluctuate and currently the market is more favorable to virgin materials. Mr. Becerra added we will continue in our efforts to mandate for more recycled content in materials. Ms. Sommer stated with respect to contamination, the cleaner the materials the more value is added for recyclability. Ms. Sommer added, in October, staff will present an item to the Board about tricky materials, i.e. materials that are presumed to be recyclable but in fact are not. Ms. Sommer added the discussion will focus on an attempt to foster discussion around implementing uniformity among franchise agreements in terms of the materials that are accepted.

There were no public comments on this item. Chair Duncan thanked staff for the report.

7. Member Comments

Ms. Sommer announced the launch of the agency's new Re:Source mobile app available on both Apple and Android platforms. Ms. Sommer stated that it was an in-house effort and congratulated the team for their hard work, Jeff Becerra, Robin Plutchok, Chris Ross, and Jeanine Sidran.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.