

APPROVED

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
PLANNING & ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE  
AND  
ALAMEDA COUNTY RECYCLING BOARD**

**Thursday, April 9, 2015  
7:00 p.m.**

**San Leandro Senior Community  
Center  
13909 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Meeting Room C  
San Leandro, CA 94578  
510-577-7990**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Daniel O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Adan Alonzo, Recycling Programs  
Jerry Pentin, City of Pleasanton  
Greg Jones, City of Hayward  
Peter Maass, City of Albany  
Daniel O'Donnell, Environmental Organization  
Lorin Ellis, City of Union City (arrived 7:50 p.m.)  
Tim Rood, City of Piedmont  
Steve Sherman, Source Reduction Specialist (arrived 7:05 p.m.)  
Toni Stein, Environmental Educator  
Minna Tao, Recycling Materials Processing Industry (arrived 7:20 p.m.)

**Absent:**

Michael Peltz, Solid Waste Industry Representative

**Staff Present:**

Gary Wolff, Executive Director  
Wendy Sommer, Deputy Executive Director  
Tom Padia, Recycling Director  
Debra Kaufman, Senior Program Manager  
Jeanne Nader, Program Manager  
Kelly Schoonmaker, Program Manager  
Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager  
Wes Sullens, Program Manager  
Arless Dunn, Clerk of the Board  
Audrey Beaman, County Counsel

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT**

There were none. Wendy Sommer welcomed the Board to the San Leandro Senior Community Center and indicated that the facility has received funding from StopWaste and has a LEED Gold rating and is Bay-Friendly. Ms. Sommer invited the Board to view the dry creek bed directly behind the facility.

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR**

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| <b>1. Approval of the Draft Minutes of March 12, 2015 (Wendy Sommer)</b> | <b>Action</b>      |
| <b>2. Board Attendance Record (Wendy Sommer)</b>                         | <b>Information</b> |
| <b>3. Written Report of Ex Parte Communications (Wendy Sommer)</b>       | <b>Information</b> |

Board member Maass made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Board member Rood seconded and the motion carried 7-0 (Ellis, Peltz, Sherman, and Tao absent).

**V. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

There was none.

**VI. REGULAR CALENDAR**

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|---|--------------------|
| <b>1. Presentation of Projects: Grants &amp; Loans, Household Hazardous Waste, Reusable Bag Ordinance (Wendy Sommer &amp; Jeanne Nader)</b> | <b>Information</b> |
|---|--------------------|
- This item is for information only.

Wendy Sommer provided an overview of the staff report and PowerPoint presentation and provided a prelude to the featured projects presentation. Ms. Sommer introduced Program Managers leading the project: Debra Kaufman, Jeanne Nader and Meri Soll. Wes Sullens, Program Manager, was present as well. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available here: <http://stopwaste.org/HHW-BagsPresentation>

Board member Stein inquired about the grants for water hydration stations. Ms. Soll stated the water hydration station replaces the traditional water fountain with filtered chilled water to refill reusable water bottles, thus reducing the number of bottles in the waste stream. Board member Pentin asked if the grant focus is for Alameda County only. Ms. Soll stated yes, although the grantee can be located outside of Alameda County as long as the project divert waste in Alameda County.

Board member Stein inquired if the reusable bag exhibit/fundraiser at Creative Growth in Oakland is still open. Ms. Soll stated that she is not sure if the exhibit is still open. However, a video was taken of the event and is currently being edited. Ms. Soll will provide a copy of the video when finalized. Mr. Padia stated that they have regular store hours and probably still have bags available for purchase.

Board member Stein asked if the loan program is for recycling only. Mr. Padia stated it could be for a non-recycling company to purchase equipment that will reduce waste. Board member Sherman inquired if the loan program criteria include waste reduction of yard trimmings. Mr. Wolff stated if the Board has a particular interest that is worthwhile the loan guidelines can be changed at the Boards' discretion.

Board member Stein inquired with respect to e-waste collection, if there is a relationship between the HHW program and Oakland Technology Exchange (OTX), where OTX has the opportunity to look through the e-waste to get computers or parts that can be reused. Ms. Kaufman stated she is not sure but will follow up with the Alameda County HHW Program Manager. Board member Rood inquired about the footprint needed for the one-stop collection events. Ms. Sommer stated the minimum area required is 300X500 feet. Board member Alonzo stated that the reuse program at the Fremont Transfer Station is

very successful and inquired about the success of the reuse program at the other facilities, and how the paint care program augments the HHW program. Ms. Kaufman stated that revenue received from Paint Care and other Product Stewardship programs offsets the HHW costs.

Board member Maass inquired about the outreach efforts for the one day drop-off HHW events. Ms. Nader stated similar to the event in San Leandro, the event in Berkeley and Albany in June will include targeted marketing to residents, including postcard mailings, press advisories etc. Berkeley and Albany staff will be doing some of their own promotion as well. Ms. Sommer stated the video included in the PowerPoint presentation will be made available to all cities and member agencies. Board member Alonzo inquired about the contact person for updating member agency information on the StopWaste website. Ms. Nader stated that she will forward the updated information to the webmaster. Board member Stein requested information on how much waste is collected by category. Ms. Kaufman stated that she can provide the information to her. Ms. Kaufman added when we did the analysis two years ago the cost of processing HHW was \$2,000 per ton, compared to under \$300 per ton for solid waste (including sorting and collection).

Board member Jones recommended working with the local Association of Realtors to inform them about where to dispose of paint products. Ms. Kaufman stated there has been discussion regarding coordinating with the Association regarding the Paint Care program. Board member O'Donnell recommended reaching out to residents that are now losing their lawns and informing them about where to dispose of pesticides as well as swimming pool chemicals. Ms. Nader stated that she has been working on distributing information on proper disposal of these materials at the lawn conversion events. Board member Sherman recommended working with the Berkeley Rent Board to provide information on where to properly dispose of HHW materials. Board member Stein recommended partnering with PG&E or a utility entity with respect to managing proper disposal of fluorescent lamps. Ms. Sommer stated it is worth exploring working with Rising Sun, a local non-profit offering Green Energy Training Services for adults and youth focused on careers in construction, energy efficiency, and the solar industry.

Board member Alonzo asked if neighboring jurisdictions must comply with the Reusable Bag Ban. Ms. Soll stated if SB 270 had passed all local government entities would have had to comply with the State ban. Board member Sherman asked how many cities have a reusable bag ban. Ms. Soll added that the Californians Against Waste website has that information. Later in the meeting, she stated that as of September 2014, 127 California Cities have plastic bag ordinances in place, and 44 Cities are located in the Bay Area.

President O'Donnell thanked staff for the presentation.

**2. Preliminary Legislative and Regulatory Positions for 2015  
(Wendy Sommer & Debra Kaufman)**

**Action**

Staff recommends that the Committees recommend the preliminary legislative positions to the full Authority Board for the 2015 session of the California legislature.

Debra Kaufman provided a summary of the staff report. The report is available here:

<http://stopwaste.org/2015legislativepositions>

Board member Tao noticed that the person championing AB 901 (Gordon) is from San Mateo County, not Alameda County. Ms. Kaufman commented that this is an issue that affects local governments across the State. San Mateo and San Francisco are not getting accurate information about waste generated in their jurisdictions. Ms. Sommer added we still may have an Alameda County legislator co-author the bill. Board member Sherman inquired about the loss in revenue for Alameda County. Mr. Wolff stated that

it's estimated that Alameda County is losing approximately \$500,000 to \$2 million in revenue annually and San Mateo approximately \$1 million annually.

Board member Alonzo inquired if StopWaste considered helping municipalities enforce against illegal haulers. Ms. Kaufman stated that this is a concern frequently raised at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting and this bill will help to address the issue as we will be able to obtain more information on the haulers and tons hauled out of county.

Ms. Kaufman discussed the staff recommended position of "oppose unless amended" on SB 47, a proposed two year moratorium on synthetic turf made from waste tires, until the results of a study on the potential adverse health impacts of synthetic turf was completed. Board member Stein commented that she disagrees with the agency's position on SB 47 and that there are numerous toxic components contained within this product, which is of concern, especially where children are playing. Ms. Kaufman noted that dozens of studies have been conducted on this issue already and doing another study would not resolve this issue unless it is a comprehensive study. The study needs to be well defined to make it useful in evaluating whether and at what exposure level, there may be health concerns of specific components in various tire related products, including pour-in-place products as well as crumb rubber. An adequate set of field data is necessary to draw conclusions. One goal should be the creation of standards for use of the product in a variety of settings including playing fields and playgrounds. A moratorium for two years without an adequate study will not solve the issue. Additionally, tire disposal remains an important solid waste challenge for which safe recycling alternatives are needed. A number of our Alameda County jurisdictions are using this product as a more economical, water conserving alternative to grass. Board member Pentin commented that the City of Pleasanton has decided not to use this product in a new set of fields in Pleasanton and determined that it's worth the extra cost of \$1 million. Board member Stein stated as a County we should look at our tire management and make every effort to get them used on the highways and away from children.

Board member Sherman stated although still very vague, staff should take an interest in AB 1063 dealing with Solid Waste Disposal Fees.

Board member Pentin made the motion to accept the staff recommendation. Board member Ellis seconded and the motion carried 9-0-1 (Tao abstained) (Peltz absent).

## **VII. OTHER PUBLIC INPUT**

There was none.

## **VIII. COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS**

President O'Donnell commented that a city in Arizona is proposing a ban on banning plastic bags.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.