

APPROVED

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

Thursday, September 8, 2022

6:00 P.M.

TELECONFERENCE MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Francisco Zermeño called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Timothy Burroughs explained the virtual meeting process being utilized during the meeting. A link to the process is available here: [Virtual-Meetings-Instructions.](#)

II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

Eric Havel, Environmental Educator
Darby Hoover, Environmental Organization
Preston Jordan for Dan Kalb, ACWMA (interim appointment)
Chiman Lee, Recycling Programs
Grace Liao, Source Reduction Specialist
Dave Sadoff, ACWMA
Shelia Young for Bob Carling, ACWMA (interim appointment)
Francisco Zermeño, ACWMA, President

ABSENT:

Deborah Cox, ACWMA
Laura McKaughan, Recycling Materials Processing Industry
Talia Wise, Solid Waste Industry Representative

Staff Present:

Timothy Burroughs, Executive Director
Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director
Justin Lehrer, Operations Manager
Alma Freeman, Communications Manager
Emily Alvarez, Program Manager
Miya Kitahara, Program Manager
Adrienne Ramirez, Assistant Clerk of the Board
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board
Farand Kan, Deputy County Counsel

Others Present:

Shannan Young, City of Dublin
Shayna Hirshfield-Gold, City of Oakland

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

There were none.

IV. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Arthur Boone emailed comments via the public comment portal expressing concerns about the approach to removing organics from the waste stream that is being implemented at the OMRF at the Davis Street Transfer Station. A copy of the email is attached as a matter of record.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

- 1. Approval of the Draft PC & RB Minutes of August 11, 2022**
- 2. Resolution regarding meeting via teleconference to promote social distancing, pursuant to AB 361**
Adopt Resolution #RB 2022-11.
- 3. Board Attendance Record**
- 4. Written Report of Ex Parte Communication**

There were no public comments for the Consent Calendar. Board member Sadoff moved approval of the Consent Calendar and Board member Lee seconded. The motion carried 6-0. The Clerk called the roll: (Ayes: Havel, Lee, Liao, Sadoff, Young, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cox, Hoover, Jordan, McKaughan, Wise).

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

- 1. Member Agency Climate Action Plan Support Update (Emily Alvarez)**
This item is for information only.

Timothy Burroughs introduced the item and Emily Alvarez provided an overview of the staff report and presented a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Alvarez introduced Shayna Hirshfield-Gold, City of Oakland, and Shannan Young, City of Dublin. Ms. Hirshfield-Gold and Ms. Young presented an overview of their city's updated Climate Action Plans and how StopWaste support assisted in the development and implementation of those plans. A link to the staff report and the presentations are available here: [Climate-Action-memo.pdf](#).

Additional time was provided to the Board for discussion and for clarifying questions. An audio link to the discussion is available here: [Climate-Action-Discussion](#). Board members thanked Ms. Alvarez and the presenters for their presentation. President Zermeño on behalf of the city of Hayward staff, acknowledged StopWaste staff for their efforts in assisting the city with its climate action plans as well as connecting staff to other agencies. There were no public comments on this item.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

There were none.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – to October 13, 2022 at 4:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Arliss Dunn

From: Arthur Boone <arboone3@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 8, 2022 11:49 AM
To: publiccomment
Subject: Arthur Boone for ACRB meeting on Sept 8.

My name is Arthur Boone; I live now in Alameda. I served on this board from 2007 to 2009 and refused re-appointment because I didn't rethink the work was valuable. I am best known today here as the junior complainant in the matter of Stein v. ACWMA. At your last meeting, I spoke on those issues and will not do it again. To my knowledge nothing has been resolved in that matter.

The issue today is the construction now under way in the OMRF building for an anaerobic digester that will "compost" the organics removed from mixed waste in an extensive and expensive process. The developer and owner, apparently, is Urbasser, a German firm with much experience in this field, that has leased a place from the owner, Waste Management. I am grateful to Ruth Abbe for bringing this development to my attention but I am sorry that such a project is moving forward in our county.

The banker in this project is the California Pollution Control Financing Authority which approves and supports with long-term financing such projects in California; 20 are listed in their March 2018, 12 page report of what's afoot, and I am glad to provide a copy to anyone interested.

When we look at organics going into the garbage, I see a failure of public policy and action at work. If my mother learned to drive on only half of a country road in her 1914 car when they put middle strips, everybody can learn to treat their organics suitably. Only a few people defecate on the sidewalk; the rest of us behave. My fear of this Urbasser anaerobic digester working with contaminated feedstocks will result in large quantities of finished material that is unsuited for ag applications and so it will go on to a landfill, indeed, the methane will have been removed, but spent organics that have no use in the stream of commerce, is no blessing to the human community. The Europeans have somehow come to see de-methanized organics back in the ground as a gain; I can never see that.

I hope your staff will look at this issue carefully; I'm sorry I wasn't paying attention in 2018 when all this developed and I hope I have explained this correctly.

2. John Moore, a local attorney, at one time a member of this board and now co-chair of NCRA's zero waste committee, called my attention to a court finding which, if I have this right, holds that residents who pay garbage bills in their city have a right of action in the local court to be aggrieved by the fees that the waste hauler and the city have agreed to. That holding makes a lot of sense to me and gives a fine privilege to aggrieved parties.

In my youth, I was hired as the staff director of the State of Rhode Island's Commission for Human Rights. The lack of a work ethic on the part of my five investigators was stunning to me. I have seen more than once a serious disinterest in their job by public employees. I wish the grievant well and I hope those of you in elected positions can see the virtue of this new development. I hope you will ask Mr. Moore to come and explain the decision to you and answer your questions.

3. When I read on a Waste Management garbage truck that "we run on clean burning natural gas" I am bemused by this slogan. I believe that in large trucks, natural gas is a cleaner fuel than diesel but certainly not cleaner than an electric motor which we are now seeing more and more of in large trucks.

It's also almost humorous that we tell the public to keep their organics out of a landfill but the gas their garbage trucks are burning comes from organics incorrectly placed in a landfill. Anybody see the foolishness of this slogan today? So be it.

Submitted, ARBoone Thursday, Sept. 8, 11:44 a.m.