

**APPROVED**

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

**Thursday, September 12, 2019**

**7:00 P.M.**

**City of Dublin Civic Center  
Regional Room  
100 Civic Plaza  
Dublin, California 94568  
(925) 833-6645**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Second Vice President Jillian Buckholz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE**

Jillian Buckholz, Recycling Programs  
Bernie Camara, Recycling Materials Processing Industry  
Bob Carling, ACWMA  
Deborah Cox, ACWMA  
Tianna Nourot, Solid Waste Industry Representative  
Jim Oddie, ACWMA  
Dave Sadoff, ACWMA  
Francisco Zermeño, ACWMA

**Absent:**

Sarah Vared, Source Reduction Specialist  
Vacant, Environmental Educator  
Vacant, Environmental Organization

**Staff Present:**

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director  
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager  
Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director  
Justin Lehrer, Senior Management Analyst  
Jeanne Nader, Program Manager  
Farand Kan, County Counsel  
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT**

There were none.

**IV. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

Arthur Boone provided public comment regarding the amicus brief filed in reference to the lawsuit filed by himself and Antoinette Stein versus the Alameda County Waste Management Authority. Mr. Boone distributed a copy of the amicus brief (attached).

## APPROVED

### V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Approval of the Draft Minutes of August 8, 2019 (Jeff Becerra)**
2. **Board Attendance Record (Jeff Becerra)**
3. **Written Report of Ex Parte Communications (Jeff Becerra)**
4. **Grants Issued Under Executive Director Signature Authority (Wendy Sommer)**

There were no public comments for the consent calendar. Board member Zermeño made the motion to approve the consent calendar. Board member Carling seconded and the motion carried 6-0: (Ayes: Buckholz, Camara, Carling, Nourot, Sadoff, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Cox, Oddie, Vared. Vacant: Environmental Educator, Environmental Organization)

### VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. **Employment Status Change for Board Members (Pat Cabrera)**

This item is for information only.

Pat Cabrera provided an overview of the staff report. A link to the report is available here: [Board-Member-Status-Change.pdf](#). There were no public comments on this item.

2. **National Sword Update and Local Impacts (Meghan Starkey)**

This item is for information only.

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: [National-Sword-Update.pdf](#)

President Cox and Board member Oddie arrived during the discussion. President Cox chaired the remainder of the meeting. Board member Carling inquired if the task force is communicating and reaching out to other task forces around the state. Ms. Starkey stated that industries are communicating with one another and other jurisdictions phone in to our meetings. Ms. Sommer added the state is thinking of convening a task force and consulted with us on how we are convening so that they can replicate it. Ms. Sommer added the larger question is how we address this issue at the statewide level. Board member Oddie inquired as to the impetus to the Processing & Materials Changes. Ms. Starkey stated that the decision was made between the jurisdictions and haulers. Board member Oddie inquired if the haulers came to the cities or vice versa. Ms. Sommer stated that the haulers went to the cities. Ms. Sommer added we learned at the P&A meeting that Waste Management will continue to accept gable top milk cartons in the recycling for Emeryville, and Oro Loma Sanitary District will need to put their milk cartons in the recycling bin (instead of the composting bin). Board member Sadoff inquired about the issue of contamination fees. Board member Camara stated that for LSI, if there is more than 5% contamination in the recycling bin they will be charged at the garbage rate. Ms. Sommer added at the P&A meeting, Board member Young mentioned that Waste Management would be conducting a pilot study with cameras on trucks. Board member Nourot stated that Waste Management is willing to do whatever it can to reduce the rate of contamination. Board member Zermeño inquired if there is some movement or political will for creating places that would handle our waste. Ms. Sommer stated that California has some of the strictest environmental regulations around permitting and it is very difficult to site facilities. The agency along with our partners such as CalRecycle and Californians Against Waste is tackling the issue by trying to affect legislation. Board member Zermeño inquired if the committee is considering approaching companies like Amazon to address the packaging issue. Mr. Lehrer stated that we have a

## APPROVED

fairly limited amount of influence with companies such as Amazon but we have spoken to representatives from Amazon and have heard that they are interested in improving their packaging. Board member Buckholz stated that she had read an article in the Mercury News that talks about two pieces of legislation that have recently been proposed and one of the bills puts the onus on the industry, which mandates that manufacturers can't create materials that our facilities cannot recycle and the other bill states that the plastic must contain some recycled content. Board member Buckholz will forward the article to the Clerk of the Board to share with Board members. Ms. Sommer stated that the state legislation is SB 54 and AB 1080 sponsored by Assembly member Lorena Gonzalez and Senator Ben Allen and stated that we should support the language but she is concerned about how the policies will be implemented at the local level and whether local jurisdictions are willing to implement these measures without a funding mechanism. Board member Buckholz stated that she heard that some campuses are stockpiling materials and inquired if the facilities are doing this as well. Ms. Starkey stated the facilities in Alameda County are not stockpiling materials because it will increase residual, which will then require them to apply for a solid waste facility permit. Ms. Starkey added the Alameda County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) is staying on top of this issue. Board member Buckholz inquired how we are messaging to the public. Ms. Starkey stated we are messaging to the public that "when in doubt, find out." Board member Zermeño stated that there is an entity in San Leandro that recycles and reuses textiles. Board member Cox announced that Assembly member Bill Quirk in partnership with StopWaste, Castro Valley Sanitary District, and ACI, will be hosting a recycling event at the Castro Valley Library on October 12. The event will help customers to learn what bin to put things in.

There were no public comments on this item. First Vice President Cox thanked staff for the presentation.

### **3. Grants Update (Justin Lehrer & Jeanne Nader)**

This item is for information only.

Justin Lehrer and Jeanne Nader provided an overview of the staff report and presented a PowerPoint presentation. A link to the report and the presentation is available here: [Community-Grants-Presentation.pdf](#)

Ms. Nader distributed a flier for the Community Outreach Grant program and asked that Board members distribute the flier to organizations that might be interested in the program. The flier will be provided electronically as well. A link to the website is available here: [Community-Outreach-Grant-Program](#). Board member Zermeño noted that there was funding in the budget this year for innovative packaging but none for next year. Mr. Lehrer stated that the money is still available but it is rolled into the general packaging funding. Mr. Lehrer added there was money left over from last year but we are hoping to utilize it in support of a pilot program for schools that will offer bulk milk dispensers instead of cartons. Board member Oddie stated that he recently moved and used reusable bins and they worked great. There were no public comments on this item. First Vice President Cox thanked staff for the presentation.

## **VII. COMMUNICATIONS/MEMBER COMMENTS**

Board member Buckholz announced that she would be meeting with Cassie Bartholomew, Cal State East Bay, the city of Hayward and staff from the dining hall to discuss doing a food waste campaign in the residence hall.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.