

WMA Board, Energy Council & Recycling Board

Bob Carling, **WMA President**
City of Livermore, WMA, EC

Francisco Zermeño, **WMA 1st Vice President**
City of Hayward, WMA, EC

Tracy Jensen, **WMA 2nd Vice President**
City of Alameda, WMA, EC, RB

David Haubert, **EC President**
County of Alameda, WMA, EC

Michael Hannon, **EC 1st Vice President**
City of Newark, WMA, EC

David Mourra, **EC 2nd Vice President**
City of Emeryville, WMA, EC, RB

Laura McKaughan, **RB President**
Recycling Materials Processing Industry, RB

Dan Kalb, **RB 1st Vice President**
City of Oakland, WMA, EC, RB

Eric Havel, **RB 2nd Vice President**
Environmental Educator, RB

Jennifer Hansen-Romero, City of Albany, WMA, EC

Susan Wengraf, City of Berkeley, WMA, EC

Dave Sadoff, Castro Valley Sanitary District, WMA

Melissa Hernandez, City of Dublin, WMA, EC

Yang Shao, City of Fremont, WMA, EC

Shelia Young, Oro Loma Sanitary District, WMA

Jennifer Cavanaugh, City of Piedmont, WMA, EC

Jack Balch, City of Pleasanton, WMA, EC

Fred Simon, City of San Leandro, WMA, EC, RB

Jeff Wang, City of Union City, WMA, EC, RB

Darby Hoover, Environmental Organization, RB

Chiman Lee, Recycling Programs, RB

Talia Wise, Solid Waste Industry Representative, RB

Grace Liao, Source Reduction Specialist, RB

Timothy Burroughs, Executive Director

AGENDA

**JOINT MEETING OF THE
ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY BOARD (WMA),
THE ENERGY COUNCIL (EC)
AND
THE SOURCE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING
BOARD (RB)**

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

3:00 P.M.

IN-PERSON MEETING LOCATION
STOPWASTE BOARD ROOM
1537 WEBSTER STREET, OAKLAND, CA

This meeting will be conducted in a hybrid model with both In-person attendance and Teleconference participation:

Teleconference location #1	1404 Le Roy Ave., Berkeley, CA
Teleconference location #2	2735 Park Blvd, Oakland, CA
Teleconference location #3	118 Glashauss Loop, Emeryville, CA
Teleconference location #4	3722 Ardley Avenue, Oakland, CA
Teleconference location #5	3131 S. Las Vegas Blvd, Las Vegas, NV, Wynn Tower Hotel Lobby
Teleconference location #6	Scott Haggerty Heritage House, 4501 Pleasanton Ave., Pleasanton, CA
Teleconference location #7	30587 Huntwood Ave., Hayward, CA
Teleconference location #8	1534 Ashby Ave, Berkeley, CA
Teleconference location #9	David W. Smith City Hall, 37101 Newark Blvd, Conf Rm. 5, Newark, CA
Teleconference location #10	3300 Capitol Ave. Building 1, Fremont, CA
Teleconference location #11	32200 Regents Boulevard, Union City, CA

Members of the public may attend in person at the Board Room or the addresses listed above or by:

1. Calling US+1 669 900 6833 and using the Webinar ID 822 8361 0596
2. Using the [Zoom](#) website or App and entering meeting code 822 8361 0596

During the meeting the chair will explain the process for members of the public to be recognized to offer public comment. The process will be described on the StopWaste website at <http://www.stopwaste.org/virtual-meetings> no later than noon, Wednesday, November 15, 2023. The public may also comment by sending an e-mail to publiccomment@stopwaste.org. Written public comment will be accepted until 3:00 p.m. on the day prior to the scheduled meeting. Copies of all written comments submitted by the deadline above will be provided to each Board Member and will be added to the official record. Comments will not be read into the record.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting due to a disability, please contact the Clerk of the Board at (510) 891-6517. Notification 24 hours prior to the meeting will enable the agency to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENTS - *(Members are asked to please advise the boards or the council if you might need to leave before action items are completed)*

IV. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

An opportunity is provided for any member of the public wishing to speak on any matter within the jurisdiction of the boards or council, but not listed on the agenda. Total time limit of 30 minutes with each speaker limited to three minutes unless a shorter period of time is set by the President.

Page **V. CONSENT CALENDAR** - The Consent Calendar contains routine items of business. Items in this section will be acted on in one motion for both the WMA & EC, unless removed by a member of either Board. Members of the WMA who are not members of the EC will vote as part of the consent calendar vote, but their votes will not be considered in connection with any EC items. Members of the RB will vote on their items separately. Any member of the public may speak on an item on the Consent Calendar at this time. Public Speakers are limited to three (3) minutes.

1 **1. Approval of the Draft WMA & EC Minutes of October 25, 2023 (WMA/EC only)**

5 **2. Approval of the Draft PC & RB Minutes of October 12, 2023 (RB only)**

7 **3. Recycling Board Attendance Record (RB only)**

9 **4. Written Report of Ex Parte Communications (RB only)**

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

11 **1. SB 1383/ORRO Implementation Update (Rachel Balsley, Cassie Bartholomew & Kelly Schoonmaker)**

This item is for information only.

17 **2. Compostable Plastics Conundrum (Alma Freeman & Kelly Schoonmaker)**

This item is for information only.

3. Interim appointment(s) to the Recycling Board for WMA appointee unable to attend future Board Meeting(s) (Arliss Dunn) (WMA only)

(Planning Committee and Recycling Board meeting on December 14, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at StopWaste, 1537 Webster Street, Oakland, CA)

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

VIII. ADJOURNMENT TO:

WMA & EC MEETING, DECEMBER 20, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M.

PC & RB MEETING, DECEMBER 14, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.

DRAFT

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY BOARD (WMA)
AND
ENERGY COUNCIL (EC)**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023
3:00 P.M.**

***IN PERSON MEETING LOCATION:*
STOPWASTE BOARD ROOM
1537 WEBSTER STREET, OAKLAND, CA**

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Carling called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Timothy Burroughs explained the process that would be utilized during the meeting. A link to the process is available here: [Virtual-Meetings-Instructions.](#)

II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

WMA & EC

County of Alameda	David Haubert, WMA, EC, (EC President)
City of Alameda	Tracy Jensen, WMA, EC
City of Albany	Jennifer Hansen-Romero, WMA, EC
City of Berkeley	Susan Wengraf, WMA, EC
Castro Valley Sanitary District	Danny Akagi, WMA (alternate)
City of Dublin	Melissa Hernandez, WMA, EC
City of Emeryville	David Mourra, WMA, EC
City of Fremont	Yang Shao, WMA, EC
City of Hayward	Francisco Zermeño, WMA, EC
City of Livermore	Bob Carling, WMA, EC (WMA President)
City of Newark	Mike Hannon, WMA, EC
City of Oakland	Dan Kalb, WMA, EC
Oro Loma Sanitary District	Shelia Young, WMA
City of Pleasanton	Jack Balch, WMA, EC
City of San Leandro	Fred Simon, WMA, EC
City of Union City	Jeff Wang, WMA, EC

Absent

City of Piedmont	Jen Cavanaugh, WMA, EC
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Staff Participating

Timothy Burroughs, Executive Director
Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director
Alma Freeman, Communications Manager
Emily Alvarez, Program Manager
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board
Adrienne Ramirez, Assistant Clerk of the Board
Richard Taylor, WMA Legal Counsel

Others Present

Mike Harding, Project Representative, Jess Ranch Composting Facility
Bruce Fritz, Alameda County HHW Division Chief
Ken Pianin, Solid Waste Manager, City of Fremont

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENTS

The Board expressed condolences to Board member Young on the passing of her sister.

IV. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

Arthur Boone provided public comments.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Draft WMA & EC Minutes of September 27, 2023

2. Grants Issued Under Executive Director Signature Authority - WMA 2023-04

3. BayREN Contract for 2024-2027 and Business Plan Update (Emily Alvarez) (EC only)

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a four-year contract with ABAG, starting January 1, 2024, for BayREN services and other related actions and to approve budget amendments up to 2% (approximately \$768,000) of the contract total where the scope of work remains unchanged.

4. Acceptance of U.S. Department of Energy Buildings Upgrade Prize for Multifamily Building Electrification (Ben Cooper) (EC only)

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to accept a \$200,000 Buildings Upgrade Prize for the development of a multifamily energy efficiency and electrification implementation plan and other related actions.

There were no public comments for the Consent Calendar. Board member Zermeño moved for approval of the Consent Calendar and Board member Wang seconded.

The Clerk called the roll: WMA Vote: 14-0 and EC Vote: 14-0.

(Ayes: Akagi, Balch, Carling, Hannon, Haubert, Hernandez, Mourra, Shao, Simon, Wang, Wengraf, Young, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Cavanaugh, Hansen-Romero, Jensen, Kalb)

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Amendment to the Alameda County Integrated Waste Management Plan (ColWMP) for Jess Ranch Composting Facility located at 15850 Jess Ranch Road in Unincorporated Alameda County (Emily Alvarez)

Staff, the Recycling Board (as the LTF), and the Planning Committee of the WMA recommend to the WMA Board that it hold a public hearing and adopt a resolution to:

- (1) Amend the ColWMP to include the Jess Ranch Composting Facility in Unincorporated Alameda County and make additional changes as needed for consistency (Exhibit 1);
- (2) Find that the Jess Ranch Composting Facility conforms to the ColWMP as amended (Exhibit 2); and
- (3) Make the findings required by CEQA, including adoption of a Statement of Overriding Considerations.

Timothy Burroughs introduced the item. Emily Alvarez provided an overview of the staff report and presented a PowerPoint presentation. A link to the staff report and the presentation is available here: [Jess-Ranch-ColWMP-Amendment-memo.pdf](#). Mike Harding, Project Representative for the Jess Ranch Composting Facility, was present to answer questions. Ms. Alvarez informed that Board that on August 10, 2023, staff provided a presentation to the Recycling Board, and the Recycling Board, in its role as the Local Task Force (LTF) and the Planning Committee of the WMA Board recommended that the WMA Board approve the subject County Integrated Waste Management Plan (ColWMP) amendment and hold a public hearing at a future WMA meeting. Additional time was provided to the Board for discussion and for clarifying questions. An audio link to the discussion is available here: [Jess-Ranch-ColWMP-Discussion](#).

DRAFT

Arthur Boone provided public comments. Board member Kalb moved approval of the staff recommendation, and Board member Wengraf seconded. The motion carried 19-0. The Clerk called the roll: (Ayes: Akagi, Balch, Carling, Hannon, Hansen-Romero, Haubert, Hernandez, Jensen, Kalb, Mourra, Shao, Simon, Wang, Wengraf, Young, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Cavanaugh)

2. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program and Fee Analysis (Pat Cabrera)

That the WMA Board direct staff to conduct the Household Hazardous Waste Fee financial analysis based on current program design to determine if there is a need to adjust the fee beginning in FY 2025.

Timothy Burroughs introduced the item. Pat Cabrera provided an overview of the staff report and presented a PowerPoint presentation. A link to the report and the presentation is available here: [HHW-Update-memo.pdf](#). Ken Pianin, Solid Waste Manager at the City of Fremont, and Bruce Fritz, HHW Division Chief, were present to answer questions. The Board was provided additional time for discussion and for clarifying questions. An audio link to the discussion is available here: [HHW-Update-Discussion](#).

Ms. Cabrera stated that staff will return to the Board in the spring of 2024, upon completion of the financial analysis. There were no public comments for this item. Board member Young moved approval of the staff recommendation, and Board member Wengraf seconded. The motion carried 18-0. The Clerk called the roll: (Ayes: Akagi, Balch, Carling, Hannon, Hansen-Romero, Haubert, Jensen, Kalb, Mourra, Shao, Simon, Wang, Wengraf, Young, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Cavanaugh, Hernandez)

3. Interim appointment(s) to the Recycling Board for WMA appointee unable to attend future Board Meeting(s) (Arliss Dunn) (WMA only)

(Joint meeting of the Waste Management Authority Board, The Energy Council, and the Planning Committee & Recycling Board, Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at StopWaste, 1537 Webster Street, Oakland, CA)

There was no action required for this item.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Burroughs announced that the monthly topic brief highlights the proper handling and disposal of treated wood. A link to the topic brief is available [here](#).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – TO JOINT WMA, EC, AND PC & RB MEETING NOVEMBER 15, 2023, at 3:00 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

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DRAFT

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

Thursday, October 12, 2023

4:00 P.M.

IN PERSON MEETING LOCATION:
STOPWASTE BOARD ROOM
1537 WEBSTER STREET, OAKLAND, CA

I. CALL TO ORDER

1st Vice President Kalb called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Timothy Burroughs explained the 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
Tracy Jensen, ACWMA
Dan Kalb, ACWMA
Chiman Lee, Recycling Programs
Grace Liao, Source Reduction Specialist
David Mourra, ACWMA
Fred Simon, ACWMA
Talia Wise, Solid Waste Industry Representative

Absent:

Laura McKaughan, Recycling Materials Processing Industry (President)
Jeff Wang, ACWMA

Staff Present:

Timothy Burroughs, Executive Director
Alma Freeman, Communications Manager
Robin Plutchok, Program Manager
Angelina Vergara, Program Manager
Emily Alvarez, Program Manager
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board
Farand Kan, Deputy County Counsel

Others Present:

Natasha Browne, Oro Loma Sanitary District
Uyen Mai, City of Union City
Stephanie Willits, City of Fremont

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

There were none.

IV. OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Draft PC & RB Minutes of September 14, 2023

2. Board Attendance Record

3. Written Report of Ex Parte Communication

There were no public comments for the Consent Calendar. Board member Jensen moved for approval of the Consent Calendar. Board member Wise seconded, and the motion carried 9-0. The Clerk called the roll:

(Ayes: Havel, Hoover, Jensen, Kalb, Lee, Liao, Mourra, Simon, Wise. Nays: None. Abstain: None. Absent: McKaughan, Wang).

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Municipal Panel: Member Agency Schools Programs (Robin Plutchok)

This item is for information only.

Timothy Burroughs introduced the item. Robin Plutchok introduced the panelists and provided an overview of the staff report. Representatives from Fremont, Union City, and Oro Loma Sanitary District shared their experiences and insights on the opportunities and challenges of implementing recycling, organics, and sustainability programs in their schools. A link to the staff report and the presentation is available here: [Schools-Muni-Panel-memo.pdf](#).

Additional time was provided to the Board for discussion and for clarifying questions. An audio link to the discussion is available here: [Schools-Muni-Panel-Discussion](#). There were no public comments for this item. 1st Vice President Kalb thanked staff and the panelists for a very inspiring presentation.

2. 2023 Waste Characterization Study Update (Emily Alvarez)

This item is for information only.

Timothy Burroughs introduced the item. Emily Alvarez provided an overview of the preliminary results of the Waste Characterization Study (WCS). Sampling is anticipated to conclude at the end of the year and a final report will be produced in 2024. A link to the staff report and the presentation is available here: [WCS-Update-memo.pdf](#).

Additional time was provided to the Board for discussion and for clarifying questions. An audio link to the discussion is available here: [WCS-Update-Discussion](#).

Arthur Boone provided public comments. 1st Vice President Kalb thanked staff for a very informative presentation and stated that he is looking forward to the final report.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1st Vice President Kalb announced that the Oakland City Council will consider adoption of a reusable foodware ordinance at its December council meeting. He thanked StopWaste for its support and assistance. Board member Jensen announced that on Tuesday, the Alameda City Council will receive an update on its Zero Waste program.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT – TO JOINT WMA, EC, AND PC & RB MEETING – NOVEMBER 15, 2023 AT 3:00 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

2023 - ALAMEDA COUNTY RECYCLING BOARD ATTENDANCE

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
REGULAR MEMBERS												
B. Carling	X	X	X	X	X	X						
E. Havel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
D. Hoover	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	X	X		
T. Jensen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	X		
D. Kalb	X	X	X	X	I	X	I	X	A	X		
C. Lee	X	A	X	X	A	X	A	X	X	X		
G. Liao	X	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
L. McKaughan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A		
D. Mourra	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	X	X	X		
F. Simon	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
J. Wang							X	X	X	A		
T. Wise	X	X	A	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
F. Zermeño	X											
INTERIM APPOINTEES												
S. Young					X							
M. Hannon							X					

Measure D: Subsection 64.130, F: Recycling Board members shall attend at least three fourths (3/4) of the regular meetings within a given calendar year. At such time, as a member has been absent from more than one fourth (1/4) of the regular meetings in a calendar year, or from two (2) consecutive such meetings, her or his seat on the Recycling Board shall be considered vacant.

X=Attended

A=Absent

I=Absent - Interim Appointed

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DATE: November 15, 2023

TO: Recycling Board

FROM: Timothy Burroughs, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Written Reports of Ex Parte Communications

BACKGROUND

Section 64.130 (Q)(1)(b) of the Alameda County Charter requires that full written disclosure of ex parte communications be entered in the Recycling Board's official record. At the June 19, 1991 meeting of the Recycling Board, the Board approved the recommendation of Legal Counsel that such reports be placed on the consent calendar as a way of entering them into the Board's official record. The Board at that time also requested that staff develop a standard form for the reporting of such communications. A standard form for the reporting of ex parte communications has since been developed and distributed to Board members.

At the December 9, 1999 meeting of the Recycling Board, the Board adopted the following language:

Ex parte communication report forms should be submitted only for ex parte communications that are made after the matter has been put on the Recycling Board's agenda, giving as much public notice as possible.

Per the previously adopted policy, all such reports received will be placed on the consent calendar of the next regularly scheduled Recycling Board meeting.

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DATE: November 15, 2023

TO: Waste Management Authority Board & Recycling Board/Planning Committee

FROM: Rachel Balsley, Senior Program Manager
Cassie Bartholomew, Senior Program Manager
Kelly Schoonmaker, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: SB 1383/ORRO Implementation Update

SUMMARY

State law SB 1383 and the Organics Reduction and Recycling Ordinance (ORRO) took effect on January 1, 2022 to reduce the amount of food and other compostable materials sent to landfill. StopWaste is supporting member agencies with various implementation activities including compliance monitoring/enforcement, reporting to CalRecycle, outreach and education, edible food recovery, recycled organics product procurement, and more. At the November 15 Joint WMA and Recycling Board meeting, staff will provide a summary update of those efforts.

DISCUSSION

Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement

StopWaste is taking the lead on behalf of member agencies to conduct compliance monitoring and enforcement of the compost and recycling collection service requirements at commercial and multifamily properties. In partnership with members agencies, StopWaste's first objective is to provide assistance to businesses to achieve compliance with the requirements. Enforcement in the form of Notices of Violation and Citations are also being issued as needed.

Official enforcement activities began in October 2022 with the first mailing of Notice of Violation (NOV) letters to notify generators of potential fines if they do not subscribe to service or have an approved waiver. Citations started in March 2023 to accounts that did not come into compliance within 60 to 75 days of their NOV. Fines for these larger generators start at \$100 and increase to \$250, then \$500 for continued non-compliance (sites with less than 2 cubic yards of weekly garbage service have fines that start at \$50 and increase to \$250 per violation).

In the last year, 4,120 Notices of Violations and 1,530 Citations have been issued, with 425 sites having been issued multiple Citations. We estimate that approximately half of the accounts come

into compliance after receiving an enforcement letter either through adding the required service(s) or by obtaining a waiver or properly documenting compliant alternative recycling services such as self-haul, back-haul, or shared service.

Significant Increase in Compliant Accounts

Baseline collection service compliance data captured in December 2022 compared to compliance data to date indicates that approximately 4,130 accounts have come into compliance with the recycling and compost collection service requirements within the last year. Countywide, 89 percent of commercial/business accounts with two or more cubic yards of total weekly collection service are in compliance with the collection service requirements, and 71 percent of all sized commercial and multifamily accounts are in compliance.

There are several ways commercial and multifamily accounts can come into compliance: they can order the required service, submit a request for a waiver (accounts that generate less than 10 gallons of organics or have a city-approved space constraint), or by submitting documentation to StopWaste that an alternative method of collection is used to comply with the recycling and compost service requirements (self-haul, back-haul, or shared service). Within the last year, approximately 2,400 waivers have been approved for de minimus generation of materials, bringing the total approved from January 2022 through October 2023 to a little over 3,400 accounts. This equates to approximately 17 percent of the roughly 20,000 commercial garbage accounts countywide. Approximately 3 percent of accounts have an approved “Certification of Recycling Service” on file for alternative collection arrangements.

While there has been a significant increase in compliant accounts, the rate of Citation payments has been low at roughly 33 percent. We are implementing a number of initiatives to increase the payment rate, such as revisions to the Citation letter giving clearer payment instructions and new envelope design to clearly communicate that an enforcement letter is enclosed.

Outreach, Education, and Technical Assistance

StopWaste continues to offer a suite of services and materials to educate sites about the SB 1383/ORRO requirements and help with compliance. We work closely with member agencies, chambers, and business associations to amplify our messaging.

The SB 1383/ORRO webpages at www.StopWaste.org/rules provide streamlined access to information on the requirements and free resources. We recently added “widgets” on the ordinance webpages to provide city-specific information regarding various compliance steps. For example, users can now select their city from drop-down menus to get their hauler’s contact information, guides/brochures, information about rates (including discounted or free recycling and compost service where available), as well as posters, signs, and free indoor bins.

Website translation functionality provides accessibility in five different languages and many resources are offered in multiple languages, such as the new printable “[overview flyers](#)” for businesses and multifamily properties.

In FY 2022-23, our contracted technical assistance (TA) team reached out to approximately 460 accounts to offer assistance and provided either virtual or in-person assistance to 260 businesses and multifamily properties. TA representatives assist accounts with coming into compliance by helping them subscribe to collection service, setting up indoor recycling/composting stations, assessing needs and assisting with surplus edible food recovery program set-up, training staff, and/or submitting documentation or waiver applications on their behalf, if applicable.

StopWaste also continues to provide indoor food scrap bins valued at up to \$500 per site as well as stickers to label indoor bins. In FY 2022-23, over 200 sites were approved for free green bins, and almost 300 sites received StopWaste's free stickers to label indoor bins.

Edible Food Recovery Outreach, Inspections, and Reporting

StopWaste continues our food recovery compliance work in partnership with the Alameda County Department of Environmental Health (ACDEH) which is assisting with education and compliance monitoring at Tier One (e.g., grocery stores and markets) and Tier Two (e.g., restaurants and entities serving prepared food) commercial edible food generator permitted sites in the county. All member agencies have signed MOUs with ACDEH and letter agreements with StopWaste, formally designating each to assist with implementation and enforcement of selected food recovery activities and conduct inspections of commercial edible food generators.

ACDEH started outreach and inspections of Tier One generators in April 2022, with over 280 facilities inspected or reinspected through June 2023. The type of sites inspected included large grocery stores and supermarkets that typically generate fresh produce and shelf stable items. In January 2023, StopWaste started outreach and inspections of additional Tier One generators that fall outside of the purview of ACDEH – those that hold food permits through the state which are primarily wholesale food vendors and distributors. StopWaste has reached out to over 137 of these generators, inspecting 10 through September 2023.

We continue to work closely with ACDEH and other coalitions throughout the state to develop safe food handling practices and guidance tools for donors. We have also identified 87 active food recovery partners operating in the County and now have a public list of over 30 food recovery organizations and services available to pick up or receive donated food from Alameda County's food generating businesses. The list is integrated with the Agency's RE:Source tool available at resource.stopwaste.org/food-recovery-organizations. Stopwaste continues to support these food recovery partners through monthly Alameda County Food Recovery Network meetings and the agency's annual grant funding program.

Procurement

A priority for FY 2022-23 was to make common sense legislative changes to SB 1383, including the procurement requirements. Last year StopWaste convened a stakeholder group made up of other Bay Area jurisdictions, composters, and large users of compost. The goal was to develop and

propose an alternate pathway(s) to compliance for jurisdictions that have had organics collection in place for many years and, as a result, already have mature markets that would be disrupted by the current procurement requirements. The group developed concepts and shared them with CalRecycle staff to identify any barriers. StopWaste anticipates a bill being introduced this legislative session.

Meanwhile, StopWaste is working with member agencies on compliance strategies to support implementation, including:

- Conducting a pilot agreement with Zero Foodprint to support grants to farmers and ranchers to procure 3,300 tons of compost on behalf of StopWaste's member agencies;
- Identifying the potential for compost and mulch use on agricultural land in Alameda County;
- Working with the Alameda County Resource Conservation District and County of Alameda to pilot a Compost for Agriculture program to provide compost to farms, ranches, and vineyards in support of member agency compliance with procurement requirements;
- Continuing to expand compost distribution through compost hubs at urban farms and other locations;
- Continuing to provide individual compost and mulch use education and technical assistance to member agencies' landscape staff and contractors;
- Continuing to develop additional tools and resources as needed, and;
- Continuing to monitor the potential of compliance through electricity from biomass and renewable natural gas.

Record-keeping and Data Reporting

Member agencies and their hauler representatives have access to real-time account-level activity data that StopWaste or its consultants are doing in their jurisdiction through a Member Agency Data Portal that connects with StopWaste's CRM database. This includes information on enforcement letters, waivers, submissions for certification of recycling services and proof of service, technical assistance activities, and food recovery organization annual reporting. StopWaste also provides support to member agencies with their SB 1383 annual reporting to CalRecycle by compiling summary level data in a format that matches the questions asked in the CalRecycle Electronic Annual Report (EAR), which was due this year in August.

Another way StopWaste supported member agencies is by facilitating the first full year of Edible Food Recovery Reporting for 2022. There were 86 food recovery organizations or services that reported over 5,879,740 pounds of food recovered from 285 businesses with written agreements. An additional 5,879,439 pounds of food was also recovered from businesses without a written agreement during the 2022 calendar year. The total pounds of food recovered from all Tier 1 and Tier 2 donors reported is 11,759,180 pounds (about 5,880 tons).

Capacity Planning

StopWaste will conduct a new round of Capacity Planning for Edible Food Recovery and Organic Waste Recycling, as required by SB 1383 in coordination with member agencies, the County and

other partners. The capacity plans will cover the period from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2034.

The Edible Food Recovery Capacity Plan will:

- Update the list of Tier One and Tier Two Commercial Edible Food Generators (CEFGs) and Food Recovery Organizations and Services
- Estimate the amount of edible food disposed of by CEFGs located in the county
- Identify existing capacity at food recovery organizations that's available to CEFGs
- Identify or propose new or expanded food recovery organizations or services that will be used to recover food
- Identify the amount of new or expanded capacity if there's a lack of capacity identified, to recover edible food estimated to be disposed by CEFGs

SB 1383 and other state laws require that counties demonstrate sufficient organics processing capacity. StopWaste will continue to provide this information to the County in 2024. All previous analyses, which have relied on Alameda County waste characterization study information, have shown that there is sufficient capacity to meet countywide organics processing needs.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

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DATE: November 15, 2023

TO: Waste Management Authority Board & Recycling Board/Planning Committee

FROM: Alma Freeman, Communications Manager
Kelly Schoonmaker, Senior Program Manager

SUBJECT: Compostable Plastics Conundrum

SUMMARY

Compostable plastic, a type of biodegradable plastic intended to break down in the composting process, is increasingly ubiquitous in our society, and used to make things like disposable utensils, straws, bin liners, takeout food containers, and cups. Manufacturers of compostable plastics market them as eco-friendlier alternatives to traditional plastic which is typically made from petroleum-based raw materials. However, increasing awareness and emerging research suggest that compostable plastics also present challenges to both waste management facilities and the environment.

BACKGROUND

What actually happens to compostable plastics after they are disposed of is under increased scrutiny by policy makers, local governments, processors, and the public. Compostable plastics are notoriously difficult to differentiate from other plastics, leading to widespread confusion over which bin they should go in. This confusion is compounded by inconsistent acceptability and messaging across the county and region.

In practice, even if an item makes it into a compost bin and to a commercial composting facility, these facilities do not have the conditions under which compostable plastics can fully break down. Additionally, research suggests that the remaining material can leave traces of harmful microplastics in the finished compost, which is land-applied and used to grow the food that we eat. Like consumers, processors have difficulty identifying compostable plastics, and as such, routinely remove all plastics, compostable or not, and send them to the landfill where, deprived of oxygen, they can release methane.

At the November 15 Joint WMA and Recycling Board meeting, staff will provide an overview of the environmental and health concerns with compostable plastics and will share research and updates on existing regulations and policy underway that have implications for the acceptability, distribution, processing, and messaging of compostable plastics in California.

RECOMMENDATION

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December 2023
Meetings Schedule

Alameda County Waste Management Authority, the Energy Council, Source Reduction & Recycling Board, and Programs and Administration Committee
(Hybrid meetings are held at StopWaste Offices unless otherwise noted)

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	<p style="text-align: center;">9:00 A.M. Programs & Administration Committee Key Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2024 Meeting Schedule 2. Foodware ordinance <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6:00 P.M. Planning Committee & Recycling Board Key Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Election of Officers 2. 2024 Meeting Schedule 3. Foodware ordinance 4. Review Board rules of procedure 	15	16
17	18	19	<p style="text-align: center;">3:00 P.M. Waste Management Authority & Energy Council Key Items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2024 Meeting Schedule 2. Energy Program Priorities 3. Legislative Priorities 	21	22	23
24	25 AGENCY HOLIDAY	26 AGENCY HOLIDAY	27	28	29	30
31						