



DATE: January 9, 2020

TO: Planning Committee/Recycling Board

FROM: Meghan Starkey, Senior Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Municipal Panel: Alameda County Recycled Product Purchase Preference (RPPP)

SUMMARY

The Alameda County General Services Agency (GSA) is a national leader in advancing Green Purchasing by public agencies. Funded in part by Measure D's Recycled Product Purchase Preference fund, the GSA ensures their own purchasing promotes environmental and sustainability goals, provides direct support to StopWaste member agencies, and supports national efforts on this topic. At the January 9 meeting, staff from the Alameda County GSA Office of Sustainability will provide a report on their leadership efforts in green purchasing.

DISCUSSION

Public agencies collectively have enormous purchasing power, which can be leveraged to support environmental and sustainability goals. Alameda County itself spends over \$900 million on goods and services. The GSA administers the purchasing policy, which can be summarized as "Buy Less, Buy Better." Buying less promotes efficiency with resources and public dollars, while buying better includes specifications such as recycled content, water and energy efficiency, and lower toxicity.

In addition to its own initiatives, including the County's construction projects, fleets, and supply chains, the GSA provides assistance to StopWaste member agencies. This takes the form of Green Purchasing Roundtables (delivered to purchasing officials directly), contract "piggy backing" to take advantage of County contracts that meet green purchasing guidelines, and technical assistance.

The Recycling Board provides over \$400,000 annually to the GSA pursuant to the Measure D Recycled Product Purchase Preference Fund.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.