



DATE: May 11, 2017
TO: Planning & Organization Committee/Recycling Board
FROM: Tom Padia, Deputy Director
BY: Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager
SUBJECT: Reusable Bag Ordinance Update

SUMMARY

On October 25, 2016 the Waste Management Authority (WMA) expanded the Reusable Bag Ordinance (2016-2) to include all retail stores and eating establishments in Alameda County. The ordinance promotes reusable bags to reduce waste and litter from single-use bags, and keep plastic bags out of local waterways. The original ordinance has covered approximately 1,200 grocery, drug and liquor stores since 2013, and significantly reduced the number of single-use plastic and paper bags distributed at checkout. To build upon this success, the WMA expanded the ordinance to all retail stores effective May 1, 2017 and eating establishments effective November 1, 2017.

DISCUSSION

Staff will provide an update to the Board on outreach and implementation activities relating to the expansion of the ordinance to an additional 13,000 stores and eating establishments. Outreach materials developed for both retail stores and eating establishments will be distributed at the meeting as well as a synopsis of technical assistance visits to newly affected stores.

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.