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

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

3:00 P.M.

StopWaste Offices
1537 Webster Street
Oakland, CA 94612
510-891-6500

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Rood called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

City of Alameda	Jim Oddie, WMA, EC
County of Alameda	Scott Haggerty, WMA, EC (alternate)
City of Albany	Nick Pilch, WMA, EC
City of Berkeley	Susan Wengraf, WMA, EC
Castro Valley Sanitary District	Dave Sadoff, WMA
City of Dublin	Melissa Hernandez, WMA, EC
City of Emeryville	Ally Medina, WMA, EC (alternate)
City of Fremont	Jenny Kassin, WMA, EC
City of Hayward	Francisco Zermeño, WMA, EC
City of Newark	Mike Hannon, WMA, EC
City of Oakland	Dan Kalb, WMA, EC
Oro Loma Sanitary District	Shelia Young, WMA
City of Piedmont	Tim Rood, WMA, EC, President
City of San Leandro	Deborah Cox, WMA, EC
City of Union City	Emily Duncan, WMA, EC

ABSENT:

City of Livermore	Bob Carling, WMA, EC
City of Pleasanton	Jerry Pentin, WMA, EC

Staff Participating:

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager
Kelly Schoonmaker, Program Manager
Cassie Bartholomew, Program Manager
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board
Richard Taylor, WMA Legal Counsel

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENTS

There were none.

IV. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

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Arthur Boone provided public comment on the lack of effort in San Diego for collecting information on organics recycling. Mr. Boone commented on the lack of redemption centers for bottles and cans in the City of Alameda, and he announced that Jeff Morris, Economist, would be speaking at the Zero Waste Conference on source separation.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Draft Minutes of January 22, 2020 (Wendy Sommer)

There were no public comments for the Consent Calendar. Board member Hannon made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Board member Pilch seconded and the motion carried 18-0: (Ayes: Cox, Duncan, Hannon, Haggerty, Hernandez, Kalb, Kassan, Medina, Oddie, Pilch, Rood, Sadoff, Wengraf, Young, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Carling, Pentin).

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Altamont Property Overview and Update (Kelly Schoonmaker)

This item is for information only.

Kelly Schoonmaker provided an overview of the staff report and presented a PowerPoint presentation. A link to the report and the presentation is available here: [Altamont-Property-Overview-Update.pdf](#)

Board member Hannon inquired about the range of eagle detection for the windmills. Ms. Schoonmaker stated that she is not sure but the windmills are positioned to allow one minute to shut down any turbines posing a collision threat. Board member Lamnin inquired about the other birds. Ms. Schoonmaker stated that the technology was developed for eagles, but there is potential for other birds to be added to the recognition system. Board member Medina asked about the increase in bat fatalities with the larger turbines. Ms. Schoonmaker confirmed that the number of bat fatalities did increase with the larger turbines, due to improved detection methods but also due to a low pressure zone created by the turbines that is fatal to bats. Methods to reduce bat kills, including timing of operations and audio technology to deter bats, are currently under development, but have not been implemented at the WMA property. Board member Haggerty inquired if there was any contiguous land available for purchase. Ms. Sommer stated that there are two private land owners and the agency has made forays in the past into purchasing additional land but they were not interested in selling. Board member Sadoff inquired about the schedule of deliverables for the California Rangeland Trust. Ms. Schoonmaker stated that in the beginning of the calendar year, StopWaste submits a Management Report and Expenditure Report documenting management activities conducted over the previous calendar year. Along with the Biological Monitoring Report, these reports are used to develop the funding request for the year. Board member Young inquired about an update on the Marin County Carbon Farming project. Ms. Schoonmaker stated that the Marin County Carbon Farming project was a test site and they are now partnering with the Marin Agricultural Land Trust and their Resource Conservation district and they have been expanding carbon farming in Marin and Sonoma. As a result of the Marin Carbon Project, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service has conducted field trials of compost use across the state, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture has created the Healthy Soils Program to fund carbon farming projects. Board member Young inquired about an update on the Jess Ranch project. Ms. Schoonmaker stated that they submitted a Draft EIR in November and the agency provided comments and is still in conversations with them to try and get the facility to align with our goals. Ms. Sommer added we are working with the County Planning Department as the project is currently going through the permitting and environmental process. The facility is proposing to process 1000 tons per day on fifteen acres, which, compared to other similar commercial facilities, is a

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very small site to process that amount of material. Ms. Schoonmaker added it would provide a year round solution for processing biosolids and also provide added infrastructure for composting, and we are continuing to provide our comments on the project. President Rood thanked Ms. Schoonmaker for her presentation.

2. AB 619: New Reusable Container Law for California (Jeff Becerra)

This item is for information only.

Jeff Becerra provided an overview of the staff report. A link to the report is available here: [AB-619-CA-Reusable-Container-Law.pdf](#). Board member Cox stated that there are restaurants where you can get the food and empty it into your own take out container and inquired about the proposed process. Mr. Becerra stated that there is a section in the health department code that speaks to sanitizing the surface and that the food facility is required to isolate consumer-owned containers from the serving surface or sanitize the serving surface after each filling. Mr. Becerra added there is no regulation on leftovers being placed into the reusable container. Board member Hannon suggested that as we look to expand on the reusable container policy we should work with the health department and encourage them to place a placard at the restaurant to inform the public that the facility has been inspected and in compliance with the reusable food ware policy and encourages the use of reusable food ware containers. Mr. Becerra stated that we will work with them in this regard. Board member Kassan inquired if there are different requirements for food and beverage containers as many coffee shops allow the use of reusable mugs. Cassie Bartholomew stated that beverage containers are allowable because they can be easily pre-sanitized with hot water prior to filling the container. The legislation is focused on food ware that is used in the back kitchen area, buffet lines, and serving areas.

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

(Planning Committee and Recycling Board meeting, March 12, 2020 at 4:00 pm, StopWaste, 1537 Webster Street, Oakland, CA).

There were no requests for an interim appointment.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

President Rood asked for an update on the vacancies on the Recycling Board. Ms. Sommer stated that we are currently advertising for the vacant positions. We will have a new representative joining the Recycling Board in March in the category of Source Reduction Specialist and there is candidate in the category of Environmental Educator that is currently going through the process. President Rood stated that the Board is willing to help in any way. Ms. Sommer distributed the most recent topic brief "[2020 Waste Reduction Grant Opportunities](#)" and asked the Board to distribute to their network, and also a copy of the monthly events for February. Board member Haggerty recommended that the presentation on the Reusable Food Ware be forwarded to the Bay Area Regional Collaborative as it is a great place to get the message out to elected officials. President Rood inquired about the timeline of the roll out of the new online recycling search tool. Ms. Sommer stated that the roll out is scheduled to coincide with Earth Day on April 22. Board member Cox thanked staff for including the TAG (Technical Advisory Group-Energy Council) minutes in the meeting packet. Board member Kalb stated that he appreciates the minutes as well and asked that staff highlight any essential items. Ms. Sommer stated that the minutes are provided for information but any essential items that need to be addressed by the Energy Council are always placed on the agenda.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.