

DRAFT

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

Wednesday, May 22, 2019

3:00 P.M.

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

President Dave Sadoff, WMA, called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE

City of Alameda	Jim Oddie, WMA, EC
County of Alameda	Keith Carson, WMA, EC
City of Albany	Rochelle Nason, WMA, EC
City of Berkeley	Susan Wengraf, WMA, EC
Castro Valley Sanitary District	Dave Sadoff, WMA
City of Emeryville	Dianne Martinez, WMA, EC
City of Fremont	Jenny Kassan, WMA, EC
City of Hayward	Francisco Zermeño, WMA, EC
City of Livermore	Bob Carling, WMA, EC
City of Oakland	Dan Kalb, WMA, EC
Oro Loma Sanitary District	Shelia Young, WMA
City of Piedmont	Tim Rood, WMA, EC
City of San Leandro	Deborah Cox, WMA, EC
City of Union City	Emily Duncan, WMA, EC

ABSENT:

City of Dublin	Melissa Hernandez, WMA, EC
City of Newark	Mike Hannon, WMA, EC
City of Pleasanton	Jerry Pentin, WMA, EC

Staff Participating:

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director
Michelle Fay, Program Manager
Richard Taylor, WMA Legal Counsel
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENTS

President Sadoff welcomed the Business Efficiency awardees and guests and informed them that the ceremony would commence following a brief board meeting.

IV. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR

There was none.

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Approval of the Draft Joint Minutes of April 24, 2019 (Wendy Sommer)

2. Resolution - Castro Valley Sanitary District (Wendy Sommer)

That the WMA Board adopt the attached resolution "Celebrating and Commending the 80th Anniversary of the Castro Valley Sanitary District."

Board member Young extended congratulations to the Castro Valley Sanitary District on a milestone achievement.

There were no public comments for the Consent Calendar. Board member Cox made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Board member Kalb seconded and the motion carried 15-0-1: (Ayes: Carling, Carson, Cox, Duncan, Kalb, Kassan, Nason, Oddie, Sadoff, Wengraf, Young, Zermeño; Nays: None. Abstained from minutes: Martinez. Absent: Hannon, Hernandez, Pentin, Rood).

VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. Proposed FY 2019-20 Budget (Wendy Sommer & Pat Cabrera)

Staff recommends that the WMA Board adopt the WMA FY 19-20 Budget Resolution (Attachment A) and the Energy Council adopt the EC FY 19-20 Budget Resolution (Attachment B).

Ms. Sommer stated that staff provided a comprehensive presentation of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 proposed budget at the April 24, 2019 combined meeting of the WMA Board, the Energy Council, and the Recycling Board. The Boards held an extensive discussion regarding the fiscal and programmatic approach for the upcoming fiscal year. The April 24, 2019 minutes (available [here](#)) reflect the comments and discussion from the meeting. The budget contains a minor correction regarding the proposed Household Hazardous Waste fee. The proposed fee should be \$6.64 per residential property unit (not \$6.60 as originally shown).

There were no public comments on this item. Board member Zermeño made the motion to adopt the WMA and EC FY 2019-20 budget. Board member Wengraf seconded and the motion carried by the following votes:

WMA 17-0:

(Ayes: Carling, Carson, Cox, Duncan, Kalb, Kassan, Martinez, Nason, Oddie, Rood, Sadoff, Wengraf, Young, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained. None: Absent: Hannon, Hernandez, Pentin).

Energy Council 17-0

(Ayes: Carling, Carson, Cox, Duncan, Kalb, Kassan, Martinez, Nason, Oddie, Rood, Wengraf, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained. None: Absent: Hannon, Hernandez, Pentin).

2. Interim appointment(s) to the Recycling Board for WMA appointee unable to attend future Board Meeting(s) (Wendy Sommer)

(Planning Committee and Recycling Board meeting, June 13, 2019 at 4:00 pm, StopWaste Offices, 1537 Webster Street, Oakland, CA)

DRAFT

There were no requests for an interim appointment for the June 26 meeting. Board member Zermeño indicated that he would require an interim appointment for the July 11 meeting. A request for an interim appointment will be made at the June 26 WMA/EC meeting.

VII. MEMBER COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Board member Zermeño shared an article from the San Diego Tribune regarding how China’s ban on scrap imports has spurred investment in American plants that process recyclables. A copy of the article is attached. Ms. Sommer distributed a copy of the most recent topic brief “Business Efficiency Awards,” (available [here](#)), and a list of the May 2019 StopWaste events happening around the County (attached).

VIII. 2019 STOPWASTE BUSINESS EFFICIENCY AWARDS (Michelle Fay)

The Board recessed for a five-minute break and immediately thereafter commenced the 2019 StopWaste Business Efficiency Awards. A link to the staff report is available here: [2019-Business-Efficiency-Awards-05-25-19.pdf](#) .

The following is a list of the awardees:

Honolulu BBQ, Alameda - Excellence in Disposable Foodware Reduction

Isla Restaurant, Newark - Excellence in Recycling & Composting

Semifreddi’s, Alameda - Excellence in Energy Efficiency, Recycling & Composting

Sodexo at Fremont Unified School District, Fremont - Excellence in Food Waste Reduction

UrbanBloc, San Leandro - Excellence in Waste Reduction & Reuse

Vericool, Inc., Livermore - Excellence in Recycling & Composting

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

China's ban on scrap imports a boon to U.S. recycling plants

New investment in American facilities creating U.S. jobs



A forklift moves through stacks of recyclables at a GDB International warehouse in New Jersey. (Seth Wenig AP)

By **MARY ESCH**

ALBANY, N.Y.

The halt on China's imports of wastepaper and plastic that has disrupted U.S. recycling programs has also spurred investment in American plants that process recyclables.

U.S. paper mills are expanding capacity to take advantage of a glut of cheap scrap. Some facilities that previously exported plastic or metal to China have retooled so they can process it themselves.

And in a twist, the investors include Chinese companies that are still interested in having access to wastepaper or flattened bottles as raw material for manufacturing.

"It's a very good moment for recycling in the United States," said Neil Seldman, co-founder of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, a Washington-based organization that helps cities improve recycling programs.

China, which had long been the world's largest destination for paper, plastic and other recyclables, phased in import restrictions in January 2018.

Global scrap prices plummeted, prompting waste-hauling companies to pass the cost of sorting and baling recyclables on to municipalities. With no market for the wastepaper and plastic in their blue bins, some communities scaled back or suspended curbside recycling programs.

New domestic markets offer a glimmer of hope.

About \$1 billion in investment in U.S. paper processing plants has been announced in the past six months, according to Dylan de Thomas, a vice president at The Recycling Partnership, a nonprofit organization that tracks and works with the industry.

Hong Kong-based Nine Dragons, one of the world's largest producers of cardboard boxes, has invested \$500 million over the past year to buy and expand or restart production at paper mills in Maine, Wisconsin and West Virginia.

In addition to making paper from wood fiber, the mills will add production lines turning more than a million tons of scrap into pulp to make boxes, said Brian Boland, vice president of government affairs and corporate initiatives for ND Paper, Nine Dragons' U.S. affiliate.

"The paper industry has been in contraction since the early 2000s," Boland said. "To see this kind of change is, frankly, amazing. Even though it's a Chinese-owned company, it's creating U.S. jobs and revitalizing communities like Old Town, Maine, where the old mill was shuttered."

The Northeast Recycling Council said in a report last fall that 17 North American paper mills had announced increased capacity to handle recyclable paper since the Chinese cutoff.

Another Chinese company, Global Win Wickliffe, is reopening a shuttered paper mill in Kentucky. Georgia-based Pratt Industries is constructing a mill in Wapakoneta, Ohio, that will turn 425,000 tons of recycled paper per year into shipping boxes.

Plastics also has a lot of capacity coming online, de Thomas said, noting new or expanded plants in Texas, Pennsylvania, California and North Carolina that turn recycled plastic bottles into new bottles.

Chinese companies are investing in plastic and scrap metal recycling plants in Georgia, Indiana and North Carolina to make feedstocks for manufacturers in China, he said.

In New Brunswick, N.J., the recycling company GDB International exported bales of scrap plastic film such as pallet wrap and grocery bags for years. But when China started restricting imports, company president Sunil Bagaria installed new machinery to process it into pellets he sells profitably to manufacturers of garbage bags and plastic pipe.

He said the imports cutoff that China calls "National Sword" was a much-needed wake-up call to his industry.

"The export of plastic scrap played a big role in facilitating recycling in our country," Bagaria said. "The downside is that infrastructure to do our own domestic recycling didn't develop."

Now that is changing, though he said far more domestic processing capacity will be needed as a growing number of countries restrict scrap imports.

"Ultimately, sooner or later, the society that produces plastic scrap will become responsible for recycling it," he said.

It has also yet to be seen whether the new plants coming online can quickly fix the problems for municipal recycling programs that relied heavily on sales to China to get rid of piles of scrap.

"Chinese companies are investing in mills, but until we see what the demand is going to be at those mills, we're stuck in this rut," said Ben Harvey, whose company in Westborough, Mass., collects trash and recyclables for about 30 communities.

Esch writes for The Associated Press.



StopWaste in Your Community - May 2019

Public Events

May 18	A-1 Community Housing - Food Waste Reduction Grant Launch	Hayward, Hayward Historical Museum, 9 am – 10 am	Stop Food Waste
May 29	Farmers Market tabling	San Leandro, downtown, 5 pm – 8 pm	Stop Food Waste
June 1	Farmers Market tabling	Alameda, Haight & Webster, 9 am – 1 pm	Stop Food Waste
June 4	Eden Garden- Food Waste Reduction Grant Launch	Livermore, Crosswinds Church, 1– 3pm	Stop Food Waste
June 5	Schools Stakeholder Meeting	Oakland, StopWaste office, 4 pm – 6 pm	Schools
June 15	Worms Eat My Garbage Workshop	Oakland, City Slickers, 10 am – 12:30 pm	Sustainable Gardening
July 13	Farmers Market tabling	Berkeley, downtown, 10 am – 3 pm	Stop Food Waste

Advertising Campaigns

Mar 11 – Jun 30	Stop Food Waste campaign	BART stations, movie theaters, and online digital ads throughout the county
Apr 15 – Jun 15	Household Hazardous Waste awareness	Online digital ads throughout the county
April 22 – May 31	BayROC Reusables regional campaign	Radio (includes Pandora), online and social media ads throughout the Bay Area
May 6 – June 14	Used motor oil and filter recycling campaign	Bart stations, AC transit, Pandora, movie theaters, gas pump toppers and online digital ads throughout county