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

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019**

**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 3:02 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE**

City of Alameda	Jim Oddie, WMA, EC
City of Albany	Rochelle Nason, 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	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 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
City of Pleasanton	Jerry Pentin, WMA, EC
City of San Leandro	Deborah Cox, WMA, EC
City of Union City	Emily Duncan, WMA, EC

**ABSENT:**

County of Alameda	Keith Carson, WMA, EC
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**Staff Participating:**

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director  
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager  
Arless Dunn, Clerk of the Board  
Richard Taylor, WMA Legal Counsel

**Others Participating:**

Susan Collins, President, Container Recycling Institute  
Jeff Donlevy, General Manager, Ming's Recycling  
Priscilla Quiroz, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENTS**

There were none.

**IV. OPEN PUBLIC DISCUSSION FROM THE FLOOR**

There was none.

**DRAFT**

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. Approval of the Draft Minutes of September 25, 2019 (Wendy Sommer)**

There were no public comments for the Consent Calendar. Board member Hannon made the motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Board member Cox seconded and the motion carried 13-0: (Ayes: Akagi, Carling, Cox, Duncan, Hannon, Hernandez, Kassan, Martinez, Nason, Pentin, Rood, Wengraf, Young. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: Carson, Kalb, Oddie, Zermeño).

**VI. REGULAR CALENDAR**

**1. Recycling Redemption Center Closures (Justin Lehrer)**

This item is for information only.

Wendy Sommer provided a brief summary of the staff report and introduced Susan Collins, President of the Container Recycling Institute, and Jeff Donlevy, General Manager of Ming's Recycling. Ms. Collins and Mr. Donlevy shared information about the impacts at the state and local levels, and ideas for addressing the causes and restoring the effectiveness of California's Bottle Bill. A link to their respective presentations are available here: [CRI-Presentation-10-23-19.pdf](#) and [East-Bay-Recycling-Centers-10-23-19.pdf](#)

Board member Duncan inquired about any solutions that would prove helpful in restoring the effectiveness of the Bottle Bill. Mr. Donlevy stated that there needs to be a bigger fix at the state level including investment in creating more recycling centers and an increase in enforcement on grocers to honor the redemption of the materials. Mr. Donlevy added the cities and the grocers need to collaborate to subsidize opening new recycling centers, and the legislation needs to allow reduced hours as well as mobile recycling centers to facilitate more flexible recycling. Board member Kalb inquired if curbside recycling is increasing as direct collection is decreasing. Mr. Donlevy stated that it is too soon to provide any analysis in that area; however, the City of San Francisco had two recycling centers and when one of the centers closed the volume at the remaining center increased 100%, but the lines were extremely long. Board member Kalb inquired if it would help or hinder to amend the Bottle Bill to include more glass, i.e. wine bottles and other glass not currently accepted. Ms. Collins stated that to add more glass would mean that people that live in recycling deserts (locations with no recycling centers) would pay more and adding more materials would not help-we need more infrastructure. Ms. Collins added with respect to an increase in curbside recycling, it is too soon to tell, but over the last six years the overall bottle recycling rate has decreased 10% from 85% to 75% as more materials are going to landfill. Mr. Donlevy stated that adding more materials to the program would only increase the already robust surplus of money in the program (currently at \$300 million). Board member Young commented that CalRecycle is holding back a significant amount of money and stated that they should give the money to the cities to invest in their own recycling centers. Ms. Collins stated that CalRecycle has approximately \$360 million in funds but they don't have the authority to carry out any of the suggestions proffered at this meeting without authorizing legislation. Mr. Donlevy stated that Senator Bob Wieckowski is interested in carrying legislation and there is a placeholder bill slated for the next legislative session. Board member Cox stated her appreciation for the handout in the staff report and added even if the cities had the funding it wouldn't be prudent for them to operate recycling facilities. Board member Zermeno inquired if there is political will in Sacramento to address the issue. Mr. Donlevy stated that it will require people reaching out to their local elected officials to take the leadership role. Mr. Donlevy added there is significant opposition to Bottle Bill fixes, including the beverage industry and waste haulers. Board member Oddie stated we are contracted with a highly respected lobbying firm and in December we will be setting our 2020

## DRAFT

legislative priorities, and should place the item on the agenda to discuss the issue and possibly sponsor legislation. Board member Akagi stated the data presented indicates that 2007-2012 showed a growth in the industry and inquired about what was happening during that time. Ms. Collins stated that during that period the redemption rate was increasing from \$0.04 to \$0.05 and the program was expanded to cover non-carbonated beverages. Ms. Collins added this was also prior to implementation of the cost survey which caused the downward spiral. Board member Akagi inquired if the deposits are a fixed value. Ms. Collins stated yes. Board member Akagi stated that any legislative remedy should also include an escalation of the deposit to keep up with the cost of the product. Board member Kassin inquired about the state of the industry with respect to looking at refillable bottles. Ms. Collins stated that Oregon has the most successful deposit program in the country. It is a non-profit Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) program and the board members are comprised of manufacturers and retailers. Board member Martinez inquired if the cost survey process is written into the legislation. Ms. Collins stated yes. President Rood thanked Ms. Collins and Mr. Donlevy for their presentations. Ms. Sommer distributed the Bottle Bill topic brief available here: [Bottle-Bill-Topic-Brief-Oct-2019](#)

## 2. 2019 Legislative Wrap Up (Jeff Becerra)

This item is for information only.

Jeff Becerra introduced Priscilla Quiroz from our contract lobbyist Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange. Mr. Becerra provided a brief summary of the staff report and Ms. Quiroz provided an overview of the legislative highlights and what to expect for 2020. A link to the staff report is available here: [Legislative-Update-10-23-19.pdf](#)

President Rood inquired about AB 1583 (The California Recycling Market Development Act) with regard to eliminating the chasing arrows symbol on products. Mr. Becerra stated that the chasing arrows symbol is confusing and misleading as it is on items that are not necessarily recyclable. Board member Oddie inquired if the agency had sponsored any bills last year and if this is something that the Board could do if it so desired. Mr. Becerra stated no, the agency did not sponsor any legislation last year but it will be part of the discussion next month. Board member Oddie inquired about AB 54 (California Beverage Container Recycling and Litter Reduction Act) and if Assembly member Ting is working to address the budget shortfall with respect to this legislation. Ms. Quiroz stated that it was being discussed and they will further look into it. Ms. Quiroz added, even though the agency did not sponsor any legislation we were very involved. Mr. Becerra added, we are closely involved with SB1383 in coordinating the comments and hopefully shaping the final legislation. Board member Hannon recommended that future legislative updates include our position on the proposed bills, and added staff should notify the Board and utilize their influence with the East Bay delegation. Board member Hannon asked for clarification regarding the term “symbolic” with regard to AB 815 (Dual-Stream Recycling). Ms. Quiroz stated that the legislation is symbolic in that it is not enforced but encourages jurisdictions to adopt dual-stream programs. Mr. Becerra stated that the City of Berkeley has a curbside dual-stream program that utilizes split carts to separate the paper from the bottles and cans, which produces a cleaner stream. Board member Hannon stated his support for the dual-stream program and added it should be a consideration as we look at future legislation. Board member Duncan inquired about SB 724 (Bottle Bill Buy-Back Centers) and inquired about the lack of support for the bill. Ms. Quiroz stated that the bill is in suspense due to the cost but we did support the bill. Board member Nason asked for clarification regarding the lack of consensus on fixing the Bottle Bill and inquired about how to reach consensus. Mr. Becerra stated that organizations that we support, such as Californians Against Waste and others that are involved that are trying to address the Bottle Bill issues, may have different priorities and so the people that may influence the legislators may not agree on what the priority fixes are. Board member Young inquired if the \$360 million that CalRecycle is holding is frozen,

**DRAFT**

and if so, it is a disservice to the community. Ms. Collins stated that the money is just sitting in a fund, nothing is happening.

President Rood thanked Ms. Quiroz and Mr. Becerra for their report.

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

There were no requests for an interim appointment. Ms. Sommer distributed a copy of the October – December 2019 Calendar of Events.

**Energy Council President Cox chaired the EC item.**

**4. 2019 PG&E Local Government Partnership Contract Extension and Amendment (Jennifer West) (EC only)**

That the Energy Council adopt the attached resolution to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an amended contract with PG&E and other related actions.

There were no public comments on this item. Board member Kalb made the motion to approve the staff recommendation. Board member Zermeño seconded and the motion carried 18-0:

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

**VII. MEMBER COMMENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Board member Cox extended thanks to Jeanne Nader, Program Manager, for attending and providing a very informative presentation at Assembly Member Quirk’s Reduce, Reuse, Recycle event. The event received an amazing response from the public. The event included organizations such as Goodwill, and a shredding and E-Waste company. Over 50 lbs. of batteries were collected at the event. Board member Oddie requested an electronic version of the community events.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.