

## **Source Reduction & Recycling Subcommittee**

Santa Clara County Recycling & Waste Reduction Commission Technical Advisory Committee  
Source Reduction / Recycling / Home Composting / Green Business

**DATE:** March 26, 2009  
**TIME:** 8:00 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** San José City Hall, Tower Floor 10, Room T-1047  
200 E. Santa Clara Street, San Jose, California

### **MEETING SYNOPSIS**

(\*\* Denotes item on which action may be taken)

1. Introductions –TAC members and alternates attending were Skip Lacaze, Karen Gissibl, Dave Staub, Tony Eulo, Lisa Rose, Clif Chew, Zachary DeVine, and Stan Chau; also present were Ryan Kenny (ACC); Tim James (CGA), Trish Mulvey, and Darrell Costello (Roplast)
2. Public comment - NONE
3. Approval of synopsis of meeting of February 26, 2009 \*\* - APPROVED  
[see draft synopsis at  
<http://www.sccgov.org/SCC/docs%2FIntegrated%20Waste%20Management%20%28DIV%29%2FNotes-SRR%20meeting%2002-26-092.pdf> ]
4. Update on City of Palo Alto carryout bag actions – with no Palo Alto staff attending, Trish Mulvey provided a brief update.
5. Single-use carryout bags – policy recommendations to TAC and RWRC\*\*  
There was wide-ranging discussion by all present, however, the membership reached general consensus as follows:
  - the three goals and the three metrics previously recommended to TAC should stand
  - TAC should discuss possible means of tiering or phasing implementation of the regulatory effort to recommend to the Commission and, without reaching a specific consensus on the preferred system, SRR identified three general ways of proceeding:
    - i. Follow the County unincorporated model, with one or two years of effort focused on public education to increase use of reusable bags, with metrics to be established, and evaluation at the end of the initial period of the program's degree of success, followed by a decision whether or not to implement a system similar to that just adopted by Palo Alto or to go ahead with the last version of the model Countywide ordinance (both further described below);
    - ii. Follow the Palo Alto model, with an initial period of outreach and other efforts to increase use of reusable bags, and to decrease the use and littering of plastic bags, followed by the implementation of a plastic bag ban and a fee on paper bags; tiering is built into the Palo Alto model, with only supermarkets included at the beginning; the exact timing for individual jurisdictions might depend on how far Palo Alto had proceeded when the issue comes up for consideration and their success at withstanding litigation, but the metrics and phasing would be adopted up front;
    - iii. Follow the model described in the model Countywide ordinance and still being pursued by San José, with an initial period of outreach and other efforts to increase use of reusable bags, and to decrease the use and littering of plastic bags, followed by the implementation of a fee on both paper and plastic bags; phasing might include beginning with a lower fee, initial exemption of smaller stores or non-profits, ongoing exemption of non-profit reuse organizations that provide an incentive to reuse bags, or provisions for smaller stores to retain

the entire amount of the fee; the exact timing might depend on the CEQA analysis that San José is having prepared and legal issues related to bag fees that have not yet been resolved;

- iv. In all of these alternatives, action in Sacramento might guide or preempt local action; the SRR did not reach consensus on adoption of a plastic bag recycling option, but such an effort would almost certainly be part of any extended outreach effort, with the focus on store take-back.
6. Set day and time of next meeting and set the regular meeting schedule for 2009\*\* - it was agreed that meetings would be held monthly from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays.
7. Items for Future Agenda – it was agreed that Green Business would be agendaized for April 23 and Home Composting for May 28, if staff are available.
8. Informational updates and announcements  
Lisa Rose announced the Great American Pick-Up would be held on April 25 in several jurisdictions and on April 18 in Campbell.  
Dave Staub reported that Santa Clara's citywide cleanup tonnage was down about one-third, from 9000 tons to 6000 tons, with the biggest drop in remodeling debris.
9. Adjournment\*\*

Note: Next Regular Meeting Date is 8:30 a.m., April 23, 2009.