

County of Santa Clara

Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission of Santa Clara County
Recycling and Waste Reduction Division

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TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES August 13, 2020

VOTING MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

ACTERRA	Maija McDonald
CALIFORNIANS AGAINST WASTE	Mark Bowers
CITY OF CAMPBELL	Peri Newby
CITY OF CUPERTINO	Ursula Syrova
CITY OF GILROY	Tony Eulo
CITY OF LOS ALTOS	Andrea Trese
CITY OF MILPITAS	Elaine Marshall
CITY OF MORGAN HILL	Tony Eulo
CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW	Lori Topley
CITY OF PALO ALTO	Paula Borges
CITY OF SAN JOSE	Donna Thurmon
CITY OF SANTA CLARA	Karin Hickey
CITY OF SUNNYVALE	Karen Gissibl
COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH	Roel Meregillano
COUNTY RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION	Bill Grimes
COUNTY UNINCORPORATED AREA	Teresa Curiel
LOAVES & FISHES FAMILY KITCHENS	Mauricio Cordova
SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY	Bruce Olszewski
SANTA CLARA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT	Kirsten Struve
SECOND HARVEST SILICON VALLEY	Shelby Senna

Commissioners: Susan M. Landry, Chair ~ Nancy Smith, Vice-Chair ~ Mary-Lynne Bernald ~ Pam Foley ~ Linda J. LeZotte ~ Anthony Phan ~ Rod Sinks ~ Fred Tovar ~ Mike Wasserman ~ Kathy Watanabe

SIERRA CLUB	Heidi Melander
STANFORD UNIVERSITY	Julie Muir
TOWN OF LOS GATOS	Dan Keller
WEST VALLEY CITIES (2 votes)	Scott Holt

VOTING MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

CITY OF MONTE SERENO
CITY OF SARATOGA
TOWN OF LOS ALTOS HILLS

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Clifton Chew	SCC RWRD
Marina Chislett	Town of Los Gatos
Marcy Conn	Second Harvest Silicon Valley
Cynthia Freitas	SCC Clerk of the Board's Office
Richard Gertman	CAW
Michael Geiss	Republic Services
Alan Ha	City of Milpitas
Bailey Hall	City of Sunnyvale
David Hott	Loaves & Fishes Family Kitchens
Jason Ino	SCC RWRD
Deepti Jain	City of Sunnyvale
Myvan Khuu-Seeman	City of Milpitas
Nicole Lee	City of Cupertino
Mary Lindemuth	City of Sunnyvale
Sandi Manor	AdManor
Robin Martin	Joint Venture Silicon Valley
Kevin Martinez	GreenWaste
Victoria Morin	City of Cupertino
Suzanne Morrison	Recology
Michelle Mullane	City of San Jose
Lina Prada-Baez	City of Santa Clara
Christina Raby	City of Sunnyvale

Alyssa Rice-Wilson	City of San Jose
Cecilia Rios	City of San Jose
Peter Schultze-Allen	Self
Adit Shrestha	Premier Recycling
Cole Smith	UCCE
Charisse Sumoba	SCC Clerk of the Board's Office
Colleen Trostle	City of Santa Clara
Alex Wykoff	City of Cupertino
Maria Yap	Peninsula Food Runners
Michele Young	SCC RWRD

1. Call to Order, Introductions and Acknowledgements

Karin Hickey called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. A quorum of 25 was present. All present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

Tony Eulo made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 9, 2020 meeting. Mauricio Cordova seconded the motion and a roll call vote was conducted. Voting members approved the January 9 TAC meeting minutes except those not present at the January 9 TAC meeting who abstained.

3. Public Presentations

There were no public presentations.

4. Presentations:

- A. Bruce Olszewski gave a PowerPoint presentation about the history and current status of SJSU Center for Development of Recycling.
- B. Robin Martin and Mauricio Cordova gave a PowerPoint presentation about the A La Carte program. A question was raised about how grocery deli food is handled for donation. Mauricio responded that majority of the grocery is recovered by Second Harvest, and Shelby Senna clarified that Second Harvest only accepts deli food that has not been put out for consumption.
- C. Teresa Curiel gave an overview of the CalRecycle Beverage Container Recycling Pilot Grant. She said five cities: Milpitas, Mountain View, San Jose, Santa Clara and Sunnyvale were interested in joining the County in piloting the Olyns technology. The pilot program requires an application from each jurisdiction and Olyns. Once the pilot program is approved, then the group can apply for the grant. CalRecycle grant's group is involved with the pilot program approval process and will reach out once the group gets approval. There are five grants of \$1M each and to date only one has been approved. Bill Grimes noted that the grant is initiated in five jurisdictions but it is anticipated that Olyns will reach throughout the County if the pilot works out.

5. Update on COVID-19 impacts to local recycling, composting and waste programs

Julie Muir started the discussion about impacts of COVID-19. She said Stanford has researchers still on campus and can now see their waste profile in greater detail without the students on campus. Those on campus are still recycling and composting resulting in a high diversion rate.

Karin Hickey said they are seeing a lot more overfilled residential containers in the City of Santa Clara. Commercial tonnage has gone down. She said during the initial shelter in place items that were outside of the cart (extra cardboard, oil jugs and filters, compact fluorescent bulbs) were not picked up but those services have resumed again.

Tony Eulo commented that most jurisdictions are happy not to hear anything, meaning that carts are being picked up without major issues.

Michele Young said unincorporated is struggling with how to continue with community cleanups. How are other jurisdictions handling the situation? Karin Hickey said City of Santa Clara postponed the April cleanup which is happening now. To do this, they changed operations from contract workers to City and Mission Trail staff. Karin Hickey offered to facilitate a spreadsheet on what jurisdictions are doing that can be reviewed by all.

Elaine Marshal with the City of Milpitas said City Council provided funds for cleanups but are now trying to figure out how to stage them and also meet social distancing protocols. They are seeing an increase in the bulky item pickup and commercial tonnage is down about 30%.

6. Update on reusable programs or pilots in the county

Julie Muir said she didn't want to see a backslide on reusable programs that were getting started before COVID-19. Stanford had to cancel their pilot with NextGen and the City of Palo Alto.

Karen Gissibl with the City of Sunnyvale said she had a report on single use disposable which was scheduled to go sustainability commission in July, but was postponed until next year. Director felt it was an undue burden on businesses at this time.

7. Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission (RWRC) Update

Bill Grimes reported that the last meeting was in February, but the April and June meetings were suspended due to COVID. We have received permission for the RWRC meeting to resume in August. Does TAC feel there are items to be brought to the RWRC? Michele Young added that the RWRC was looking for updates about SB1383 which would not be available by the August meeting date. Karin Hickey said items brought up at the IC meeting may warrant a meeting but will wait until the IC update to discuss and make a determination.

8. Division Manager's Report

A. BayROC update – Michele Young reported that IC/TAC contribute \$5K a year which BayROC leverages into a regional outreach. BayROC had to pivot from the initial reusable cup campaign to a previous campaign of food waste reduction for the May 22 roll out. Felt it was a timely message with the shelter in place order. The final report on the \$91.5K campaign will be out soon. Media materials available at LoveFoodNotWaste.org

B. Disposal Reporting System – available on-line.

C. Other – Bill Grimes reported that during IC, it was announced RWRD is positioning itself to be more inward focused the next few years. The intent is to pull back from Administrator and Contracting Agent roles and focus our limited resources on SB1383 and jurisdictional responsibilities. With just three individuals, a hard hiring freeze and the prospect of staff being

called to do disaster service work duties, leadership and the team recognize RWRD needs to step back from the traditional roles. He believes it is not unexpected because the MOA spells out the process for a transition. The County will be engaged as a voting member in IC/TAC and subcommittees. It was specified that the County will continue in its roles until the end of the fiscal year and assist in the transition. The Fiscal Agent will remain with the County due to the complex nature of the duties.

Karin Hickey thanked the County for their past efforts.

9. Subcommittee Reports and Updates

A. Special TAC meetings to address potential action items

Because subcommittees meetings are still prohibited, this option will allow TAC to address items that would normally be handled at the subcommittee through TAC or a special TAC meeting. It should be noted that TAC and special TAC meetings still have the same quorum requirements of thirteen voting members.

Lina Prada-Baez said South Bay Green Garden Subcommittee contact with AdManor will expire at the end of this month and the FY21 budget has not been approved by the County Board of Supervisors. AdManor manages social media accounts and pays for website expenses (monthly and yearly). Lina said once the contract expires, then the monthly expenses need to be switched to someone else to pay the bills until the budget is passed so that funds will be available. Clifton Chew clarified that the funds had already been approved by IC/TAC but due to COVID-19, the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has been unable to meet to approve the County budget. Bill Grimes said it is anticipated that the BOS will approve the County budget next week. Once approved, the funds will be available but it is up to IC and TAC to determine if the budgetary workplan is still in place or needs adjusting.

Please send items that would need TAC decision in place of a subcommittee to Clifton Chew.

B. Enforcement –

- Roel Meregillano reported the SC County LEA (not SJ) resumed field inspections at solid waste facilities and responses to public complaints regarding solid waste issues.
- CalRecycle released a guidance document explaining CalRecycle's compliance process for SB1383 violations. Document will be forwarded to TAC list

C. Household Hazardous Waste –

- Tony Eulo reported they did not meet. Bill Grimes gave program update.
- Operations were suspended from March 14 to June 9.
- During that time, staff was on paid leave, or doing training and employee development.
- Partner pickups restored as essential services: some retail partners for batteries and bulbs, remain closed, such as libraries.
- June appointments booked quickly: hours extended to meet social distance protocols.
- First appointments were those canceled under Shelter In Place (SIP) order.
- This is the first week where there is some capacity in the appointment system.
- Half million lbs waste since reopening. Lots of paint: PaintCare facilities not accepting paint from residents
- Participation numbers for FY20: 27,900 FY 19: 35,452. Due to the lack of spring events.
- Oct 2018 through Oct 2019 MedProject report available and posted on website. Highlights:
 - Collected nearly 75Klbs unwanted medication compared to 29K the previous year.
 - 123 kiosks compared to 99 the previous year.
 - In April 43 sites reported as restricted due COVID. By July, 22 sites reopened.
 - Looking for sharps kiosk location. Safeway opening competing locations in stores

- MedProject is the stewardship organization for sharps – ordinance requirements beefed up from experience with medicine ordinance. As a result:
 - a More mail back locations which can be more burdensome. Thus they committed to more kiosks in place of mail back - 150 kiosks instead of 100. They are having difficulty recruiting locations to locate the 150 kiosks.

D. Legislation –

- Mark Bowers reported information from CAW and SWANA.
- The House has reduced the number of bills introduced to about 25% of original schedule
 - AB793 (Ting) minimum recycled content – SWANA support
 - AB995 (Garcia) reform DTSC to create board of environmental safety with board members accessible to the public. Requires 6 meetings/yr and an ombudsman.
 - AB1080/SB54 – **CAW urges individual lobbying actions to advance this bill.** Associated with Recology ballot measure which may have enough signatures to get on the 2022 ballot. Allows negotiations between the legislature and Recology. Recology could withdraw measure by mid-2022 if a legislative solution identified.
 - AB1672 (Bloom) flushable products. Heard in Senate Environmental Quality Committee. No current opposition
 - AB2959 (Calderon) – Defines Franchise boundaries. Clarifies the 1994 CA Supreme Court Rancho Mirage decision which described jurisdictions franchise authority, by stating that industrial by-products are not subject to franchise, and clarifying non-factual statements. Currently in Senate Environmental Quality Committee.
- Statewide Commission on Recycling Market and Curbside Recycling has elected Heidi Sanborn as chair
 - Noted: Commission timeline modified due to COVID 19 but not SB 1383
- Solar panels becoming universal waste – easier to store, recycle and keep records
- Recyclables landfilled under COVID 19 do not qualify as disaster relief for annual report
 - Requires exemption from Cal Recycle

Question: Concerns from Farmers about AB2959. Mark gave example: Tortilla factory would be exempt from the franchise, but a restaurant attached to the factory would not be an industrial setting thus not exempt of the franchise.

E. Operations – Alex Wykoff said they did not meet.

F. Public Education – Ursula Syrova said the group did not meet and is waiting for the approval of the budget because of a joint outreach effort with SCVURPPP.

G. Source Reduction/Recycling – Donna Thurmon said the group did not meet.

H. South Bay Green Gardens –

- Lina Prada-Baez reported they met before (SIP) hit.
- Valley Water continues to add blogs to the website and wants agency input about website content. When subcommittees resume, website updates will be on the agenda.
- Quarterly Report from AdManor available to TAC distribution list. Highlights:
 - Facebook followers growing with over 9K impressions from April to June
 - Nearly 600K impressions through Google Ads that AdManor is running.
 - Website unique visitors increased by 175% since the same time last year: correlated to the ad campaign and the SIP creating interested in home gardening.

I. Ad Hoc Foodware –

- Lori Topley reported they developed a draft ordinance for TAC distribution, have postponed TAC review while Sub-committees can't meet. Jurisdictions can proceed if they want
- Regional foodware forum has continued to meet monthly via Mariam Gordon's effort
 - Forum discussing how to reposition the ordinances due to COVID timing.
 - Reusable Serviceware Ordinance Model: request for food ware accessories, cup charge for non-reusables, reusables only for dine-in, and 10% reusable cups at events.
 - Repositioning to actions that reduce costs for the business, and set a commission cap on delivery systems, which support businesses making the food.
 - a Delivery items with disposable packaging, would be charged
 - b Some jurisdictional ordinances already impose a commission cap on delivery services

J. Ad hoc Program Prioritization –

- Tony Eulo reported they had two productive meetings and probably need two more meetings.
- Goal: look at all the activities and expenditures and come up with a prioritization.
- He noted that the budget/revenue update at the next IC meeting may impact the conversation.

10. Program Updates**A. Composting Education – in packet.**

- Cole Smith reported that events were initially cancelled in March and April due (SIP) order.
- Two workshops provided online in May with resounding success! over 200 attendees.
 - Spanish workshop tonight, and workshop recordings available online at YouTube
- Master Composter class went to online format, graduating 23 Master Composters in June.

B. Green Business – in packet.**C. Recycling Hotline – in packet.****11. IC Update – Karin Hickey report from 12:00 meeting.**

A. Bill Grimes announced the County's wishes to step back from being the TAC Administrator and Contracting Agent role during public comment at IC so there was no discussion.

B. Michele Young went over three items under Contract Discussion:

- TAC FY19 audit which IC authorized, was awarded to Harwshal and Company though a competitive process. Contract will start in September and Report available in December, following the SMaRT Station audit model;
- The Cup Campaign with Gigantic Idea Studio and the Foodware Pilot Program with SCS Engineers were suspended and these contracts were both extended to June 30, 2021.

12. Items for Future Agenda/Guest Speakers

Karin Hickey will ask Clifton Chew to send out a request for agenda items, specifically items for a special meeting to cover subcommittee and ad hoc issues.

Bill Grimes asked about agenda items for the RWRC. Karin Hickey felt that it would be wise to develop options before going to the RWRC.

13. Informal Updates and Announcements

Mark Bowers announced that he was being brought back to the City of Sunnyvale for special projects but will still be representing CAW (not City of Sunnyvale) at TAC meetings.

14. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

THE NEXT SCHEDULED TAC MEETING: September 10, 2020