



**DATE:** September 25, 2024

**TO:** Waste Management Authority Board

**FROM:** Meri Soll, Senior Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Consider need for immediate action and, if approved, consider approval of Resolution to Submit Application for Grant Funding to CalRecycle for Solar Panel Recycling and Reuse Project in Alameda County

**SUMMARY**

CalRecycle requires WMA Board action related to a recently submitted application to CalRecycle’s Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program: Small projects for \$100,000 to develop and implement a solar panel recycling and reuse pilot in Alameda County.

Cal Recycle requires that the WMA submit a Board resolution authorizing submittal of the grant application.

CalRecycle requires resubmittal no later than October 4, 2024. The deadline requires that the Board take action at its September 25 meeting.

The Brown Act allows the Board to add items to the agenda if the Board determines by a two-thirds vote “that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted.” (Government Code 54954.2(b)(2).) Staff believes this determination can be made because of the grant resubmittal deadline of October 4. Staff learned after the agenda was posted that the Agency must submit a Board resolution in order to apply for the grant.

The Board should first hear any public comment on adding this item to the agenda and then discuss and determine whether it believes there is a need for immediate action. If the Board makes that determination by at least a two-thirds vote, then the Board may consider approving the resolution needed to resubmit the grant funding request to CalRecycle.

Staff recommends that the WMA Board authorize approval of the resolution and authorize the Executive Director to submit the application to CalRecycle.

**DISCUSSION**

StopWaste has been working on a variety of activities related to understanding opportunities and barriers related to advancing solar panel reuse and recycling, as current sustainable end of life/ reuse options for solar panel reuse are very limited in Alameda County.

The number of solar photovoltaic (PV) installations continues to increase, which is an important element of generating clean electricity. Many PV panels are predicted to last 15-25 years, but situations occur that require removal and replacement of panels, be it from early panel failure, extreme weather

events, or homeowner upgrades to newer technology. Currently, there are very few options for residents to properly dispose, reuse, or recycle unwanted solar panels in Alameda County. Going forward, it is important that the Agency better understand the potential demand for PV reuse and recycling in order to identify effective solutions.

Working in partnership with California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC), this grant opportunity will allow for the development of a photovoltaic panel recycling pilot project that will utilize multiple one-day events for solar panel collection for reuse and recycling. CPSC will take the lead to identify and work closely with local hauler(s) to host the solar panel collection events. Panels that are deemed safe for reuse will be sent to local reuse outlets such as Habitat for Humanity or other local reuse partners. The promotion of the event(s) will include social media, print media, radio, television and outdoor media to reach all demographics within the Agency's jurisdiction and utilize our target audience of homeowners with unwanted solar panels. Additionally, CPSC will make direct calls to solar contractors, and other solar professionals, to gauge their view on the best practices for solar panel reuse and recycling and promote the events.

This project will promote sustainable collection of solar panels in the following ways:

- 1) Understand the barriers to reuse and recycling of solar panels in Alameda County;
- 2) Identify reuse and recycling opportunities and barriers including identifying facilities and services that accept panels, estimate cost of transportation and processing for both reuse and recycling;
- 3) Identify ways to assess the number of panels intended for removal in the upcoming years in Alameda County;
- 4) Set up and hold up to 3 one-day PV collection events;
- 5) Conduct pre & post-project research of PV installers and homeowners (if possible) to inquire about the PV panel removal and storage prior to collection for recycling

The County of Marin partnered with CPSC last Cal Recycle grant round and were awarded funding through this grant program to develop a similar project related to collection and processing of solar panels. Information regarding the Marin program available [here](#).

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the WMA Board add consideration of this resolution to submit grant application to the agenda for the September 25, 2024 meeting.

That the WMA Board adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to submit the application to CalRecycle's Household Hazardous Waste Grant Program Cycle 43, Fiscal Year 2024-25, Small Projects for \$100,000 to develop and implement a solar panel recycling and reuse pilot in Alameda County.

Attachment A: Proposed Resolution #WMA 2024-03

Attachment A

ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
RESOLUTION #WMA 2024 -03

AT THE MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO SUBMIT AN  
APPLICATION TO CALRECYCLE TO ADVANCE SOLAR PANEL REUSE AND  
RECYCLING OPPORTUNITIES IN ALMAEDA COUNTY

**Whereas**, the California Public Resources Code authorizes the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to administer various Grant Programs; and

**Whereas**, in furtherance of this authority, CalRecycle is required to establish procedures governing the administration of the Grants; and

**Whereas**, CalRecycle allows regional grant projects; and

**Whereas**, CalRecycle grant application procedures require, among other things, a Lead Participant's governing body to declare by resolution certain authorizations related to the administration of CalRecycle Grants.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the **Alameda County Waste Management Authority** authorizes **Timothy Burroughs**, Executive Director, to submit a Regional Grant application on behalf of itself as Lead Participant and all Non-Lead Participants for **all Grant Programs**.

**Be it further resolved** that the Signature Authorities identified below are hereby authorized to determine and submit a list of the Non-Lead Participants in accordance with CalRecycle requirements.

**Be it further resolved** that the **Executive Director** or their designee, are hereby authorized as a Signature Authority to execute on behalf of all participants all grant-related documents, including, but not limited to, applications, payment requests, agreements, and amendments necessary to secure grant funds and to implement the approved grant project.

**Be it further resolved** that these authorizations are effective from the date of adoption until **September 25, 2029**

Date Adopted September 25, 2024

Certified by **(Name(s) and Signature(s)) None**

**ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:**

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAINED:**

I certify that under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of Resolution #WMA 2024-03

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Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

**Attachment B**

**Phase 1 Planning Grant Scope of Work**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Project 1. Research & Development	<i>Creation of testbed/innovation center</i> - Identify pre-competitive innovations, including waste to feedstock prototypes and low-carbon concrete - Scoping of a construction sector focused testbed/innovation center, including site identification	LBNL and UC Berkeley	\$85,000
Project 2. Entrepreneurship	<i>Develop incubator program for construction sector</i> - Engage partners in prefab industry - Conduct feasibility study for incubator - Develop financing models for Phase 2 proposal - Complete market survey of modular construction business models	UC Berkeley	\$95,000
Project 3. Workforce Development	<i>Create workforce development strategy</i> - Engagement with employers, unions and community partners, and product manufacturers - Identify technical assistance resources and partners for higher education hub	Build It Green	\$40,000
Project 4. Infrastructure	<i>Planning for Secondary Materials Marketplace</i> - Conduct site planning, permit review and lease negotiation for San Francisco - Review potential sites in Alameda County RMDZ	SF Environment	\$95,000
Project 5. Market Development	<i>Stakeholder Engagement, Projects, &amp; Policy</i> - Stakeholder engagement to inform Phase 2 proposal, including equity partners - Hire Regional Economic Competitiveness Officer (RECO) - Build pipeline of pilot projects and communities - Identify policy changes to support modular housing at multiple levels of government	StopWaste	\$135,000
Administration	<i>Grant Management</i> - EDA grant liaison - Contract execution and oversight - Invoicing, reporting and financial management	StopWaste	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>