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**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE  
ALAMEDA COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA) BOARD,  
THE ENERGY COUNCIL (EC),  
AND THE SOURCE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING BOARD (RB)**

**Wednesday, April 22, 2020**

**3:00 P.M.**

**TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

President Rood called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Wendy Sommer explained the process that would be utilized during the meeting. A link to the process is available here: [Virtual-Meetings-Instructions](#)

**II. ROLL CALL OF ATTENDANCE**

**WMA & EC**

City of Alameda	Jim Oddie, WMA, EC, RB
County of Alameda	Keith Carson, WMA, EC
City of Albany	Nick Pilch, WMA, EC
City of Berkeley	Susan Wengraf, WMA, EC
Castro Valley Sanitary District	Dave Sadoff, WMA, RB
City of Dublin	Melissa Hernandez, WMA, EC
City of Emeryville	Dianne Martinez, WMA, EC
City of Fremont	Jenny Kassan, WMA, EC
City of Livermore	Bob Carling, WMA, EC, RB
City of Hayward	Francisco Zermeño, WMA, EC, RB
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, WMA President
City of Pleasanton	Jerry Pentin, WMA, EC
City of San Leandro	Deborah Cox, WMA, EC President, RB
City of Union City	Emily Duncan, WMA, EC

**RB**

Recycling Programs	Jillian Buckholz, RB
Recycling Materials Processing Industry	Bernie Camara, RB
Environmental Organization	Darby Hoover, RB
Source Reduction Specialist	Laura McKaughan, RB
Solid Waste Industry Representative	Tianna Nouro, RB
Environmental Educator	Vacant

**Staff Participating:**

Wendy Sommer, Executive Director  
Pat Cabrera, Administrative Services Director  
Jeff Becerra, Communications Manager  
Justin Lehrer, Senior Management Analyst  
Robin Plutchok, Program Manager  
Arliss Dunn, Clerk of the Board

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Richard Taylor, WMA Legal Counsel  
Farand Kan, Deputy County Counsel

**III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY PRESIDENTS**

There were no announcements by the Presidents.

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

There were no public comments on the remote call. Clerk Arliss Dunn read an email provided by Arthur Boone via the public comment email portal and informed the Board that Mr. Boone had provided a letter from the Northern California Recycling Association addressing COVID issues. The letter will be emailed to Board members. A copy of the letter and the email is attached.

**V. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**1. Approval of the Draft WMA/EC Minutes of March 25, 2020 (Wendy Sommer) (WMA/EC only)**

**2. Second Reading and Consideration for Adoption of Ordinance 2020-01:  
Repeal Existing Countywide Element and Adopt New Countywide Element of the Alameda  
County Integrated Waste Management Plan (CoIWMP) (Meghan Starkey) (WMA only)**

It is recommended that the Waste Management Authority waive the requirement to read the full text of the Ordinance, read by title only, and adopt Ordinance 2020-1.

**3. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs)  
(Pat Cabrera) (WMA only)**

That the WMA approve the MOUs with City of Fremont and the County of Alameda Department of Environmental Health.

**4. Approval of the Draft PC/RB Minutes of March 12, 2020 (Jeff Becerra) (RB only)**

**5. Recycling Board Attendance Record (Jeff Becerra) (RB only)**

**6. Written Report of Ex Parte Communications (Jeff Becerra) (RB only)**

**7. Heat Pump Water Heater Grant Update and Agreement with EBCE and MCE  
(Jennifer West) (EC only)**

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an Agreement with local energy providers for implementation of the Bay Area Regional HPWH Contractor Incentive Program and other related actions.

There were no public comments for the Consent Calendar.

Board member Zermeño made the motion to approve items 1-3 of the Consent Calendar for the WMA Board. Board member Kalb seconded and the motion carried 20-0. The Clerk called the roll: (Ayes: Carling, Carson, Cox, Duncan, Hannon, Hernandez, Kalb, Kassan, Martinez, Oddie, Pentin, Pilch, Rood, Sadoff, Wengraf, Young, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None).

Board member Sadoff made the motion to approve items 4-6 of the Consent Calendar for the Recycling Board. Board member Carling seconded and the motion carried 10-0. The Clerk called the roll:

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(Ayes: Buckholz, Camara, Carling, Cox, Hoover, McKaughan, Oddie, Nourot, Sadoff, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None).

Board member Oddie made the motion to approve item 7 of the Consent Calendar for the Energy Council. Board member Pentin seconded and the motion carried 20-0. The Clerk called the roll: (Ayes: Carling, Carson, Cox, Duncan, Hannon, Hernandez, Kalb, Kassan, Martinez, Oddie, Pentin, Pilch, Rood, Wengraf, Zermeño. Nays: None. Abstained: None. Absent: None).

## VI. REGULAR CALENDAR

**President Rood reordered the regular calendar to hear item 4 first.**

### 1. **FY 20/21 Budget presentation (Wendy Sommer & Pat Cabrera) (WMA/EC & RB)**

This item is for information only.

Wendy Sommer provided a brief overview of the staff report and programmatic activities. Pat Cabrera provided an overview of the agency's financial activities. A link to the staff report and the budget presentation is available here: [FY20-21 Budget-Presentation.pdf](#). A link to the FY 20-21 budget is available here: [FY20-21-Budget.pdf](#). Ms. Sommer outlined the next steps of the budgeting process. The Recycling Board traditionally adopts its budget at its June meeting. Staff is proposing to convene another joint meeting of the WMA Board, Recycling Board, and the Energy Council on May 27 for adoption of the respective budgets.

Board member Zermeño thanked staff for a wonderful presentation and for providing such good news regarding the financial stability of the agency. Board member Hannon commended staff for an excellent report and inquired with regard to the tonnage trends and the current COVID-19 situation, if staff receives the tonnage reports on a monthly or quarterly basis. Ms. Cabrera stated that the agency receives monthly reports and that we are looking forward to receiving and reviewing the April reports. Board member Hannon asked that staff keep the Board apprised of the reports and their effect on the agency budget. Ms. Cabrera stated that staff will do so. Board member Pilch commended staff on a great presentation and for keeping the agency solvent and commented that staff is highly regarded among bay area organizations. Ms. Sommer thanked the Board members for their leadership and recognized agency staff for their efforts in producing the budget.

There were no public comments on this item.

### 2. **COVID-19 Related Changes (Wendy Sommer) (WMA/EC & RB)**

This item is for information only.

Ms. Sommer provided an overview of the staff report. A link to the report is available here: [Covid-19-Related-Changes.pdf](#)

Board member Kalb commented that the plastic bag industry is taking advantage of the COVID-19 situation with regard to the usage of reusable bags at retail outlets and inquired if the issue is gaining traction and if staff is addressing the issue. Ms. Sommer stated that she is aware that the plastic industry is promoting that the use of plastic bags is safer. The agency is continuing our messaging to communicate that all materials have their disadvantages but proper cleaning and sanitation is essential no matter the material. We are following the guidelines of Alameda County Public Health Department. Ms. Lehrer stated that bringing your own reusable bag limits the number of people touching them and added UPSTREAM Solutions has a response to the plastic bag industry regarding the use of reusable bags during the COVID-19 issue while protecting public health, available here: [UPSTREAM-Solutions-Blog](#).

**3. Launch of RE:Source Search Tool (Robin Plutchok) (WMA & RB only)**

This item is for information only.

Robin Plutchok presented a PowerPoint presentation and an overview of the new online recycling tool RE:Source. A link to the staff report and the presentation is available here: [RE:Source-Launch-04-22-20.pdf](#). A link to online recycling tool is available here: [RE:Source](#)

Board member Hannon inquired about the bilingual capability of the search tool. Ms. Plutchok stated that the curbside pages feature visuals of materials that are designed to direct people on how to properly sort and recycle materials. The visuals also act as a stop gap solution for multi-lingual accessibility until an effective translation tool is added to the site. Board member Hannon recommended that staff research the 211 website as they have an excellent translation tool on their site. Board member Zermeno thanked staff for the report and commended staff on the visual accessibility as well as the information on repair and reuse. Board member Hoover thanked staff for a wonderful app and recommended that the widget be placed on the RecycleWhere website so that the public can have information on reuse before opting to recycle. Board member Martinez stated that it appears that under the curbside recycling tab for Emeryville it is missing information on glass bottles and aluminum cans. Ms. Plutchok stated that staff is aware of missing items that occurred during the conversion and they are reviewing the site to populate the information that is missing. President Rood thanked staff for the good work and a wonderful report.

There were no public comments on this item.

**4. Interim appointment(s) to the Recycling Board for WMA appointee unable to attend future Board Meeting(s) (Arliss Dunn) (WMA only)**

(The May 14, 2020 Planning Committee and Recycling Board meeting will not be held in lieu of a joint meeting of the WMA Board, Energy Council, and Recycling Board on Wednesday, May 27, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.)

There were no requests for an interim appointment.

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

Ms. Sommer informed the Board that Mr. Becerra would be sending the monthly topic brief to Board members. The topic brief is on flushable wipes, available here: [Problem-With-Flushable-Wipes.pdf](#). Board member Young thanked staff for the topic brief and added that there are no such thing as flushable wipes. Board member Young inquired if staff can change the website to provide information to the public about what to do with the bottles and cans during this time. Ms. Sommer stated that the information on the bottles and cans is quite fluid right now and we want to make sure any information that we post is correct. Board member Young added the website is currently showing buy-back centers and inquired if these locations are operating currently. Board member McKaughan stated that throughout Alameda County almost all of the buy-back centers are closed and San Francisco currently has one or two centers that are in operation.

President Rood shared a slide with the Board of a photo of the pale blue dot on the anniversary of the 50<sup>th</sup> Earth Day. The Pale Blue Dot is a photograph of Earth taken Feb. 14, 1990, by NASA's Voyager 1 at a distance of 3.7 billion miles (6 billion kilometers) from the Sun. Carl Sagan quoted "Look again at that dot. That's here. That's home. That's us. On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, every human being who ever was, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our joy and

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suffering, thousands of confident religions, ideologies, and economic doctrines, every hunter and forager, every hero and coward, every creator and destroyer of civilization, every king and peasant, every young couple in love, every mother and father, hopeful child, inventor and explorer, every teacher of morals, every corrupt politician, every "superstar," every "supreme leader," every saint and sinner in the history of our species lived there-on a mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam."

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.