



MINUTES
SOUTH BAYSIDE WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
November 1, 2021 2:00PM
Via Zoom Tele or Video Conference

Call To Order: 2:04PM

1. Roll Call

Member	Present	Absent
Michael Brownrigg	X	
Adam Rak		X
Carole Groom	X	
Fran Dehn	X	

SBWMA Staff Members Present: Joe La Mariana, Julia Au, Cyndi Urman

Others Present: Kayla Robinson, Environmental and Energy Consulting; Reed Addis, Environmental and Energy Consulting, Drew

2. Public Comment

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.3(a), members of the public wishing to address the Committee may do so, and the comments shall be limited to the Special Meeting notice topic(s). Speakers may join the Zoom meeting via the meeting link and using the “raise hand” feature and the Clerk of the Board will call on people.

None

3. Executive Director’s Welcome

Executive Director La Mariana gave the following verbal updates:

- The Operations RFQ was posted on October 1, 16 companies attended the mandatory pre-bidders meeting, and responses to the RFQ are due 1/12/2022. Bidder questions are due tomorrow, and several companies have requested more extensive tours of the facility to spend observational time onsite to view the operations in detail. Staff is very encouraged by the interest and hopes to have a competitive bid process.
- The CARB deadline to replace approximately 23 vehicles in SBR’s long haul fleet with cleaner emissions vehicles is looming, and staff is having extensive conversation with SBR on this issue.
- Grant Ligon’s last day with the SBWMA was 10/29. He noted he regretted not mentioning this and thanking Grant for his contributions at the Board meeting and apologized for missing the opportunity to do this publicly. The position will be posted on Friday 11/5 and he asked the committee if they

knew of anyone who might be interested to tell them to apply.

4. Approval of Consent Calendar

Consent Calendar item(s) are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless members of the Committee, staff or public request specific items be removed for separate action. *Items removed from the Consent Calendar will be moved to the end of the agenda for separate discussion.*

- A. Approval of the Minutes from the September 27, 2021 Legislative Committee Meeting
- B. Approval of 2021-2022 Legislative Committee Meeting Calendar

Motion/Second: Dehn/Groom
Roll Call Vote” 3-0-01

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Michael Brownrigg	X			
Adam Rak				X
Carole Groom	X			
Fran Dehn	X			

5. Legislative Updates from Environmental and Energy Consulting (EEC) and Committee Discussion

Kayla Robinson gave a PowerPoint presentation that covered agenda items 5 and 6.

She first gave a 2021 year in review. In January of 2021 the legislature was trying to figure out how to shift with all the political dynamics of COVID and the federal political landscape happening and that was a big adjustment for political process, including legislators being limited in the number of bills they could introduce. CalRecycle, the lead agency that oversees state recycling policy, had just gotten a new director, Rachel Wagoner, and the SBWMA and others in the industry were trying to figure out what her priorities were going to be. Then as the year went on, it became clear that if there was going to a push for public funding to support organic waste diversion this was the year to do it, so there was a big push around securing funding for SB1383 implementation. She noted that the lithium-ion battery bill that the agency wanted to co-sponsor didn't have a champion in January. EEC spent most of last year working with a key champion, Senator Newman, on battery recycling. Despite the bill being held in appropriations, which will force the bill to be reintroduced, Senator Newman is still very passionate about the topic and very interested in working with us to get that legislation reintroduced come January. Lastly in 2021, EEC worked with the SBWMA to create Zero Waste Now a coalition of 100 local agencies across the state that are all interested in aligning on issues and policies around reducing waste and recycling. This has created a bigger power force to help move the needle on issues at the state legislature.

She then went over the relevant bills that have been signed into the law by the governor.

- SB 343 by Senator Allen requires the recycling symbol only to be placed on packaging that is deemed recyclable. She noted it requires 60% of local governments to take the item as recycling for it to receive the symbol.
- AB 332 allowed for treated wood waste to be processed in a way that it was previously but had been temporarily changed and was categorized just as hazardous waste.
- AB 818 banned the term “flushable wipes” on packaging.
- AB 962 creates a path forward for re-use of glass bottles and creates a path forward for a reusable aspect to the bottle bill.

- AB 1201 ensures that what is accepted in the compost bin can actually be composted in the composting systems.
- AB1276 requires customers to opt in to request utensils for takeout food, rather than them being automatically included.
- AB 881 limits what kind of recycling can be counted as diversion.

She concluded noting that this was a big year for recycling with a robust number of bills.

6. Committee Discussion on Legislative Priorities and Strategy for Next Year's Legislative Session

Kayla Robinson continued her presentation focusing on what 2022 will look like. She noted the California political landscape with the governor coming from a big recall victory, and a historic budget surplus, that ultimately secured \$15B in funding for climate related activities. There are a lot of major issues on the governor's plate including housing and homelessness, vaccination rates and drought and wildfire. But there is a potential push for the governor to take a more aggressive stance on environmental issues, so this bodes well as the SBWMA looks to get battery legislation passed. She noted that SB 244 was unfortunately vetoed, but with that veto came a hopeful message from the governor that his administration acknowledges batteries are a problem for recyclers and he wants to see a more robust piece of legislation that requires recycling and collection of batteries, not like SB 244, which had a smaller approach to the issue.

She then went over the 2022 priorities that EEC would be working on with the SBWMA:

- Battery collection and recycling legislation
- SB 1383 Procurement requirements working towards a path forward for local governments to be able to reach the SB 1383 requirements
- Engagement around plastics reduction

Member Brownrigg commented with respect to the battery legislation that he would like to see better engagement with the 11 elected board members to use their connections in Sacramento and not just relying on the lobbying firm. Secondly, he asked for more information on what plastics engagement looks like.

Kayla Robinson answered that there is going to be a ballot initiative on the November 22 ballot, where voters get to determine whether the statewide ballot initiative to ban single use plastics goes through. But there is a statute that exists that allows the legislature to work with stakeholders and come up with a compromise that can be put on the ballot in place of the existing ballot measure. From what she's heard, there is a strong likelihood that the legislature is interested in working on a compromise. The SBWMA is likely interested in either supporting the compromise initiative or standing strong on the ballot measure. She noted that there is still going to be conversation in the legislature that could completely change the trajectory of what that ballot initiative looks like. So, as those conversations do, or do not pick up, EEC wants to at least be in the loop and will report out to this committee. There may not be any direct advocacy, but at least want to make sure that it's kept on our radar.

Member Brownrigg commented that he has gotten great feedback from the SBWMA board that plastics is an essential issue and the SBWMA need to target programs and dollars so that San Mateo County can be the tip of the spear fighting against the petroleum industry. Things like plastics alternatives, and substitutions and solutions for recycling it. San Mateo County has the wealth and the clout to be at the tip of this issue.

Member Groom commented that she is on the Executive Committee and CSAC and would be happy to help leverage statewide contacts.

Member Dehn asked if alternative packaging could be marketed as preferable could be leveraged, so that

instead of just a "don't use this" to consumers, an alternative is offered.

Member Groom asked if this committee would be meeting with local representatives when they are in the local offices so this committee could discuss what the priorities are.

Reed Addis answered yes, EEC would like to power map with this committee in December and then meet with the state legislators regularly on critical policy direction, so once the priorities for 2022 are adopted, talking points can be adopted and you all can sit down with your representatives to discuss these issues.

Member Dehn asked Member Brownrigg if he saw the Zero Waste committee moving towards plastics.

Member Brownrigg answered yes plastics is next. Extra space will be needed at Shoreway, so that the SBWMA can be a cutting-edge incubator for recycling technologies. We could probably get venture capitalists to pay us to take some of these technologies in house rather than us having to pay for it. So it would be great if the County could lease us some land next door to make space for these technologies. Secondly, the committee doesn't want to lose track of converting organic waste to energy. So, exploring whether that ever makes sense from a cost benefit point of view is the committee's next discussion. If the full-scale Organics-to-Energy project isn't financially viable, that frees up some capital to focus on plastics technologies, but first more space is needed.

7. Follow up on Action Items from Previous Legislative Committee Meeting

Staff Au noted that in the packet there is informational items from our last meeting about the plastics ban ballot initiative to share with your networks, including a summary page and media highlights and there's also an updated list of endorsements as of October 13. At the committee's recommendation this item will be going on the November SBWMA board agenda for consideration of the SBWMA endorsing this ballot initiative.

8. Legislative Committee Member Comments

9. Adjourn 2:50PM