



A Public Agency

# RETHINKWASTE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, FEBRUARY 13, 2025, at 2:00p.m.

## Minutes

RethinkWaste Administrative Office  
 1245 San Carlos Ave. Suite E  
 San Carlos, CA 94070

### AGENDA

#### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Agency	Present	Absent	Agency	Present	Absent
Belmont	2:05PM		Redwood City	X	
Burlingame	X		San Carlos		X
East Palo Alto		X	San Mateo	X	
Foster City	X		County of San Mateo		X
Hillsborough	2:06PM		West Bay Sanitary District	X	
Menlo Park	X				

#### 2. Public Comment

People wishing to address the Board on matters NOT on the posted agenda may do so. Each speaker is limited to three minutes. If there are more than five individuals wishing to speak during public comment, the Chairman will draw five speaker cards from those submitted to speak during this time. The balance of the Public Comment speakers will be called upon at the end of the Board Meeting. If the item you are speaking on is not listed on the agenda, please be advised that the Board may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed as allowed under The Brown Act (Government Code Section 54954.2). The Board's general policy is to refer items to staff for attention, or have a matter placed on a future Board agenda for a more comprehensive action or report and formal public discussion and input at that time. **Speakers may also submit comments via email prior to the meeting by sending those comments to [rethinker@rethinkwaste.org](mailto:rethinker@rethinkwaste.org).**

#### 3. Executive Director's Report (Verbal Update)

Executive Director La Mariana acknowledged the first TAC meeting in the new space and offered the new agency conference room to member agencies as space permits. Additionally, he informed the members of the upcoming board meeting that will take place on February 27, 2025, and the Board/TAC retreat which will take place on March 27, 2025.

Executive Director La Mariana discussed the flooding of the facility during the rainy season and the current consultation work by Sean Rose for long-term facility adjustments.

Member Mello inquired about how long the facility is required to stay closed after flooding.

Executive Director La Mariana stated that it varies by storm.

#### 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 Board, 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 21, 2024, TAC Meeting

Chair Lorenz informed the committee that they recommended grammatical edits to the staff prior to the meeting.

**Motion:** Member Johnson 2:13PM

**Second:** Member Mello

**Motion:** 8-0-0-3

Agency	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Agency	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Belmont	X				Redwood City	X			
Burlingame	X				San Carlos				X
East Palo Alto				X	San Mateo	X			
Foster City	X				County of San Mateo				X
Hillsborough	X				West Bay Sanitary Dist.	X			
Menlo Park	X								

#### 5. TAC Selection of New Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Lorenz described the process of selecting a new chair and vice chair for the committee confirmed by legal, starting with nominations including volunteers for self-nomination and a vote will occur in the order that nominations are received. Chair Lorenz acknowledged their enjoyment of being the chair of the TAC meetings and recommended the position to possible nominees.

Executive Director La Mariana acknowledged member Lorenz time as chair and provided a brief description of TAC chair duties, expectations, and occasional collaborations with other agency committees.

Chair Lorenz called for nominations.

Member Micheal nominated vice chair Adrian Lee for chair.

Member Lee acknowledged nomination.

Member Jack Johnson self-nominated for the chair position.

Executive Director La Mariana recommended the nominees provide a short profile of themselves and their current positions.

Nominee Lee provided a description of their current position and time as a member of the TAC.

Nominee Johnson provided a description of their current position and time as a member of the TAC.

Chair Lorenz requested a motion to close the nominations.

Motion to close the nomination by Member Micheal.

Second the close of the nomination by Member Reese.

Chair Lorenz asked members to raise their hands to vote for Adrian Lee followed by a raise of hands to vote for Jack Johnson.  
Vote: 7-0-1-3

Agency	Johnson	Lee	Abstain	Absent	Agency	Johnson	Lee	Abstain	Absent
Belmont	X				Redwood City	X			
Burlingame	X				San Carlos				X

East Palo Alto				X	San Mateo	X			
Foster City			X		County of San Mateo				X
Hillsborough	X				West Bay Sanitary Dist.	X			
Menlo Park	X								

Exchange of chair occurred with member Lorenz and member Johnson.

Chair Johnson called for the opening of nominations for vice chair.

Member Michael nominated Adrian Lee to continue as Vice Chair.

Vote: 7-0-1-3

Agency	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	Agency	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Belmont	X				Redwood City	X			
Burlingame	X				San Carlos				X
East Palo Alto				X	San Mateo	X			
Foster City			X		County of San Mateo				X
Hillsborough	X				West Bay Sanitary Dist.	X			
Menlo Park	X								

## 6. Presentation on Reusable Foodware for School Provided Lunches

Agency staff Pletsch and staff Edwards presented the issues faced by the ed teams in-school program and the proposed upstream solutions.

Member Lorenz inquired on if there is an action that staff would like the committee to take with the information provided.

Staff Pletsch stated that the presentation was only to inform the committee on their proposed solutions and what is currently being done in other school districts.

Member Lorenz inquired on what the rate payers would obtain from funding a grant program for schools that are not serviced by the agency and from a financial standpoint, a cost benefit analysis for rate payers would assist in a future decision.

Executive Director La Mariana stated the purpose of the presentation is to start a discussion on how the agency can continue to move forward with a zero-waste future vision.

Staff Hashizume provided an overview on the environmental education team in-school programs.

Staff Pletsch added that the program presented is helpful.

Member Mello asked if the staff knew how many school districts are in the service area and whether the request is for a one-time grant to assist school districts with the transition or if this would be an ongoing obligation for the agency.

Staff Pletsch described the Stop-Waste funding model which is a one-time competitive grant program that could be mirrored by the agency.

Executive Director La Mariana states that if this program is implemented, it would begin with a pilot program that will be phased in throughout multiple years to have it be rate payer friendly.

Member Michael stated interest in knowing how school districts ultimately make the decision to take part in the program and how member agencies can best support school districts.

Staff Pletsch described the interest among many stakeholders who have acknowledged their support and interest in involvement for the program.

Member Michael recommended exploring funding opportunities through policy avenues of the agency, school districts, and member agencies.

Member Cooke inquired if this program would be facilitated by the agency or if the agency plans to explore funding opportunities to run the program through Stop Waste.

Staff Pletsch stated that the agency's plan is to create their program by exploring the model used by Stop Waste.

Staff Hashizume added that Stop Waste can be compared to as the sister agency of the East Bay which is why the agency would model the program after their current program.

Public Comment Chris Slafter, Senior Sustainability Specialist in the San Mateo County Sustainability Department informed the committee the ordinance and outreach run by the county does not have jurisdiction over public school adding that they can collaborate with the agency providing grants and staff.

Public Comment Ben Schleifer from CEH explained the benefit to the schools and agency on using reusable containers and reducing packaged meals.

Chair Johnson acknowledged support of the program and recommended staff further develop the program to include the process of school procurement food trays, encouraging parents and custodians as a resource in pushing the program and researching the impact of SB54 on the program.

Executive Director described SB54 as the plastic pollution prevention act signed into law two years ago and is currently in rule making stage and assigned to CalRecycle for enforcement. Stating that the agency is currently following SB54 changes that may arise.

## **7. Senate Bill (SB) 1383 Program Update**

### *Recology Updates*

Alex Rinear Waste Zero Manager for Recology of San Mateo County provided an overview on Recology's waste zero department and a summary of their 2024 impact through Public Education and Community Outreach.

Chair Johnson acknowledged member agency's East Palo Alto and Foster City in reducing their noncompliance numbers.

Member Mello inquired on how long a space waiver is meant to last and what it looks like for those that have reacted to the space waiver and switch.

Alex Rinear confirmed that the waiver lasts five years from receiving the letter of approval from the agency. The intention is that within five years, changes will be made to the property to change space constraints and accommodate a compost cart. Further stating that they are unaware of a waiver recipient making those changes yet and that enforcement by Recology and the agency has its limitations and recommends partnering with other departments within member agencies to provide resources to individuals who receive the waiver. Recommending that the committee further discuss how the number of space constraints can be addressed.

Staff Au informed the committee that the agency was included in a grand jury report for the state of compost compliance in San Mateo County that addressed space constraints and staff has discussed next steps starting with addressing the amount of space waivers for each member agency and will further address later in the year.

Member Lorenz recommended staff send out an annual letter reminding the recipient of the space waiver that changes to their space need to be made by said due date.

Staff Chung informed member agencies that the agency can set up a process to send a letter as recommended by member Lorenz on their behalf but recommends the member agency involve their building department prior to having letters sent.

Chair Johnson acknowledged Recology and their work to lower the City of San Mateo's noncompliance numbers.

### *Notice of Violation Letters and Enforcement*

Staff Chung reminded the committee of the calendar schedule created by Recology and Staff for the 2025 notice of violation

letters. Staff Chung requested member agencies contact staff if they would like to make changes to their letter template.

Member Mello inquired if a member agency has issued fines.

Staff Chung informed the committee that there are a few who are working on enforcement now and will be reported to CalRecycle and committee once completed.

Member Mello inquired about the level of fines.

Staff Chung stated that member agencies can set their own penalties and at any monetary amount.

Public Comment from Lizzie Carrade of San Mateo County inquired if there is recommended language for the notice of violation that has been found to be most compelling.

Staff Chung stated that most member agencies used the agency's template, and a few others created their own template with more enforced language.

Staff Chung reminded the committee that SB1383 also includes single family homes and member agencies can request for those letters to be sent out by agency.

#### *Multi-Family de Minimis waiver update*

Staff Chung informed the members that with the assistance of Recology, the agency has eliminated the waiver for multi-family to focus on commercial businesses. Stating that an outreach event will occur to target commercial business and multi-families but if member agencies are interested in allowing multi-families to apply for de minimis waiver they can contact agency staff for assistance.

#### *2024 Electronic Annual Report (EAR)*

Staff Chung informed members that staff will reach out to the member agencies to submit procurement numbers to the Recyclist tracker or inform agency staff if support is needed to report those numbers to on the member agency's behalf.

Member Lorenz inquired if staff could inform and provide member agencies with the compost data pulled from Recyclist.

## **8. Contractor Updates**

### *Recology*

Alex Rinear Waste Zero Manager for Recology of San Mateo County informed the committee on Mia Rossi's change of position to Recology's corporate office stating that member agencies connect with general manager John Zirelli or Alex Rinear for any comments or complaints that may arise.

Executive Director La Mariana informed the committee of the Recology general manager, John Zirelli's upcoming retirement and that the agency, including the board chair, are engaged in the hiring process for the new general manager.

### *SBI*

Frank Perez, SBI operations manager, had no new updates to provide to the committee and extended contact information if any members have questions on the facility.

## **9. Committee Member Comments**

Member Mello inquired if any committee members have taken on Prop218 on adjusting rates.

Chair Johnson and a few members confirmed that they are in the process of adjusting.

Staff Au informed the committee members on the agency's name to be updated on documents moving forward by removing the South Bayside Waste Management Authority and branding only as RethinkWaste, stating that this will also be included when lobbying, supporting and co-sponsoring bills.

## **10. Adjourn: 3:36PM**