



MINUTES
RETHINKWASTE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 04, 2025 at 3:00p.m.

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

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Member	Present	Absent
Adam Rak		X
Adam Loraine	X	
Jeff Schmidt	X	

RethinkWaste Staff Members Present: Joe La Mariana, Julia Au, Cyndi Urman, Jean Savaree, Dolores Molina

Others Present: Mandi Strella, Environmental and Energy Consulting.

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.

3. Executive Director’s Report (Verbal Update)

Executive Director La Mariana welcomed the committee and informed them on the lobbying and press conference in Sacramento on disposable vapes impact and fire hazard for the agency’s facility. Senate rules committee and giving a passionate recommendation to the senate floor for CalRecycle interim director, Zoe Heller.

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 December 03, 2024, Legislative Committee Meeting

Motion/Second: Loraine/Schmidt

Voice Vote: 2-0-0-1

Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent
Adam Rak				X
Adam Loraine	X			
Jeff Schmidt	X			

5. Discussion on RethinkWaste's Co-Sponsored Bill:

Staff Au briefed the committee on AB 762 (Irwin) which is being cosponsored by the agency and Californians Against Waste, CPSC (California Product Stewardship Council) and CALPIRG (California Public Interest Research Group).

EEC Staff Strella informed the committee on the agency's Executive Director's upcoming meetings in Sacramento with the Assembly Natural Resources committee and the Assembly Local Government committee. Strella stated that there is uncertainty about where the bill will be referred to and there will be a coalition sign on support letter for recyclers to sign onto for AB 762.

EEC Staff Elroi added that it will be connecting with Zero Waste Now to obtain several testimonies in support of AB 762 as opposition has risen.

Executive Director La Mariana stated that it's an important part of the process to have opposition to helping find common ground and discuss both sides with all committees involved.

EEC Staff Strella stated that the next steps for the bill will be the referral process and committee hearings which will occur from late March to early April 2025.

Member Loraine stated that during the December legislative meeting, it was discussed that committee members would receive info on legislation supported by the agency moving forward. Member Loraine inquired if the agency staff began that process and whether the committee members were emailed and informed on the support of AB 762.

Staff Au confirmed this bill was brought to the attention of the committee when discussing the 2025 priority list during the December Legislative meeting. Executive Director La Mariana added that this bill falls under direct alignment within the agency's legislative platform on battery safety relating to fire prevention in the facility and for its workforce.

Staff Au recognized member Loraine's inquiry and confirmed that these bills would be co-sponsored by the agency.

Executive Director La Mariana asked Member Loraine if there were any recommendations or preferred processes.

Member Loraine recommended consistency in providing members with drafted letters of support along with a timeline on response times.

Member Schmidt provided feedback from previous experience, coalition building and informed the committee that they are open to assisting with the agency's legislative tasks.

Staff Au acknowledged the support of the co-sponsors that assist with the public facing tasks additionally acknowledging the Zero Waste Now coalition group built of like-minded agencies. Stating that if the committee is interested, staff can include the committee in the coalition discussions. Staff Au will provide committee members with an updated list of organizations and agencies within the coalition.

Member Schmidt recommended the committee build a broad network of stakeholders by connecting with people in each city within the JPA who are interested in building support. Staff Au agreed that creating a local network would be ideal for agency sponsorships.

Member Loraine acknowledged the opportunity for committee members to support bill revisions and other legislative tasks if a committee member is interested and requested to begin committee member involvement by the agency starting the process of letter reviews and revisions.

Staff Au informed the committee that EEC is working to get our local electeds to join staff on a tour of the agency's Shoreway Environmental Center and committee members are welcome to join and be a part of the discussion if interested in taking part in the agency's legislative processes.

EEC Staff Addis informed members that they are welcome to take part in engaging in and working on legislation alongside EEC.

Member Loraine inquired on what the potential impact the ban (AB 762) will have on its users and what vape options or alternatives are available to them.

EEC Staff Stella states that the option of reusable devices is not very different in price compared to the disposables. EEC Staff Elroi added that the industry began with reusable devices and that with time the sale of disposables began after the fact without the option of replacing the batteries or other aspects of the device.

Staff Au will update the informational documents on these agencies and send it to the committee members.

6. Legislative and Regulatory Updates from EEC and Commission Discussion

A. 2025 Legislative Session Introduced Bills to Track

EEC Staff Elroi described the legislative process taken by EEC for the following bills to be supported by the agency.

- Priority one; writing a support letter and testifying in committees
- Priority two; sign onto letters whether support or oppose and support through committee discussions.
- Priority three; monitoring the bills for significant changes

EEC Staff Stella presented the following priority one bills.

AB 80 (Aguiar-Curry) related to the carpet recycle program – The program was previously not performing as expected and being found out of compliance with CalRecycle. This bill is sponsored or supported by CPSC and CAW.

There was discussion about why the agency is taking a stance on this bill and the role agency has in the carpet extended producer responsibility program. Executive Director La Mariana stated that the material is received at the agency's transfer station.

EEC Staff Addis informed the committee that the bills discussed from this list are bills that could impact the agency and the goal is to decide if the priority one bills discussed can be left as they are or if they need to be amended.

The Executive Director states the bills are reviewed and monitored as the verbiage may change as time gets closer to the bills reach the two-house floors.

AB 259 (Rubio) focuses on open meetings for local agencies – allows teleconferencing procedures will go on indefinitely.

AB 473 (Wilson, D) Concerns classifying certain materials as recyclable, this bill is being monitored as it may result in more material to be recycled that is not recyclable which can impact the agency.

AB 864 (Ward) Has to do with solar panels exempt as hazardous waste and treated as universal waste if treated with a designated recycler.

Executive Director La Mariana stated that soon that the industry will not be able to take these items as they contain hazardous waste which the agency is not licensed to take.

AB 998 (Hadwick) is a bill focused on supporting how and what happens to vape pens from schools, that are confiscated from students and will receive a reduced fee when dropping off at their local household hazardous waste. The bill is sponsored by the Regional Council of Rural Counties I. There is a possibility that the agency and sponsors will combine and obtain a stewardship package with our vape bill.

SB 45 (Padilla) A bill supporting plastic bottles with tethered caps to allow for more of them to be recycled.

SB 501 (Allen) EPR (extended producer responsibility) program, is in tandem with AB 762, forcing producers to plan and ensure that toxic materials to be removed from the waste stream.

Priority two bills

AB 436 (Ransom) A bill that assists the development best practices and model ordinances in local governments who want to site composting facilities to comply and reach SB 1383 goals.

Executive Director La Mariana stated that the agency wants to support this bill to support smaller facilities by removing obstacles for communities and allowing for more development options that will benefit the agency in the long run.

AB 823 (Boerner) Prohibits the sale and distribution of products containing microbeads and supporting the removal of the beads that can be found in cleaning tools, cosmetics, and paints products.

AB 899 (Ransom) A bill that creates an incentive program to encourage purchasing used glass for wine production.

AB 561 (Blakespear) A bill to create an EPR program focused on management of emergency marine flares at end of life. this bill is co-sponsored by the National Stewardship Action Council and Zero Waste Sonoma and is another item to remove from the waste stream.

Member Loraine expressed appreciation for the information provided by the staff and will follow up with them to discuss any questions that may arise.

Member Schmidt recommended staff distinguish which of the bills might have the largest impact to operations to filter effort and priority and which will impact the agency's work on the environment and climate. Determining the environment and climate aspect can help collaborate with climate partners and advocates.

Staff Au stated that support letters will be sent out to the committee members for these bills and allow for acknowledgment of support or not to support a bill or a request for more information.

EEC Staff Strella states that there may be additional bills or updates to bills to after March 17.

Member Loraine inquired on what bills are being monitored more so than supported.

EEC Staff Stella informed that committee that the only one now is AB 473.

7. Committee Member Comments

Member Loraine inquired about the letter for Zoe Heller that would be going to Sacramento.

Staff Au confirmed the letter was written by staff for the confirmation hearing that the Executive Director will attend the following day.

8. Adjourn 4:15 p.m.