

# **Carpet Advisory Committee Code of Conduct**

## **I. Authority and Purpose**

The Director of the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle), at their sole discretion, appoints members to the Carpet Advisory Committee (Committee) who are individuals in the environmental community, solid waste industry, local government, public or private representatives involved in the collection, processing and recycling of carpet, and other interested parties, as determined by the director. At least one member, respectively, will represent carpet manufacturers, and Southern California Resilient Floor and Decorative Covering Crafts Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee or Northern California Floor Covering Finishing Trades Institute Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee.

Pursuant to [Public Resources Code \(PRC\) section 42972.1](#), the Committee is charged with making comments and recommendations to a stewardship organization (Organization), manufacturers, and CalRecycle on Plans, Plan Amendments, and Annual Reports. The role of the Committee is to review and provide comments and recommendations on these documents and any other items related to these documents requested by the Organization or the director.

Committee members must adhere to this Code of Conduct. Such compliance is a condition of each Committee member's appointment, including their continued membership, to the Committee.

## **II. Duration of Service**

- a. The director shall review Committee membership periodically to ensure the statutorily identified stakeholder categories are represented.

## **III. Dismissal of Members**

- a. The director may dismiss members at their sole discretion.
- b. For members appointed by the Assembly Speaker and the Senate Rules Committee, the director shall contact the Speaker and Rules Committee, respectively, if a member misses two consecutive meetings, fails to complete assignments, resigns, or changes status in any way.
- c. Exceeding Scope of Authority- Ultra vires acts of the Committee are prohibited and will be invalid. Committee members are expected to act in accordance and within the limited scope of their statutory authority outlined in Section I of this Code of Conduct. Members who exceed their role as outlined, shall be subject to dismissal by the director.

## **IV. Organization of the Committee**

- a. **Elected Officers**

- i. Elections – Elections of officers shall be held at the end of the last meeting prior to term limits ending and the transition to new officers is immediate. Nominations, including self-nominations, for elected officers will be made at the meeting. The Committee will conduct a rollcall vote to approve each nomination.
- ii. Terms – All officers shall serve for two years. Should an officer leave the Committee mid-term, an election will be held at the next meeting to complete that term. In the case of only having one elected officer seated, the Chair may request an interim officer from the Committee to fill that seat until the next meeting when the election can be held according to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.
- iii. Duties –
  - o Chair – Plan, schedule, lead and moderate meetings, approve agendas, ensure the Committee adheres to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act and the Code of Conduct, and submit comments and recommendations to CalRecycle and the Organization.
  - o Vice-Chair – Draft documents at meetings and assist with other responsibilities as requested by the Chair and Secretary.
  - o Secretary – Prepare agendas and meeting minutes, assist with documents for submittal to CalRecycle and the Organization.
- b. **Voting** – A majority of Committee members must be present at a publicly scheduled meeting to establish a quorum, which is required for the Committee to discuss Committee business. If a member wishes to propose and discuss a recommendation on a Plan, Plan Amendment, or Annual Report for the Committee’s consideration, the member shall make a motion at a publicly scheduled meeting, and another member must second the motion. The Chair restates the motion, then members discuss the motion. When all members have discussed the motion that wish to do so, the Chair invites the public to comment on the motion. When all members of the public have discussed the motion that wish to do so, the Chair asks the members whether they want to adopt the motion. The Committee shall conduct a rollcall vote on each motion. A majority vote is required for each recommendation to pass. Only appointed members may vote on Committee motions. The Committee announces whether the motion passes or fails.
- c. **Minutes and Committee Records** – The official approved minutes for each meeting must contain each motion and document how each member voted on each recommendation (including, ayes, noes, abstentions, and members that were not present for the vote).

- i. Minutes – Typed by Secretary or Vice Chair (or other Committee member) during the meeting, reviewed by Chair, and sent to the Committee with the draft agenda for the next meeting. Draft minutes will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting. Meeting minutes shall reference Committee members disclosed private and personal interests.
  - ii. Committee Records – The Committee Chair will create and maintain an online repository for the Committee meeting documents. All Committee documents will be stored on the online repository. The Committee members will have access and editing rights. The Chair will transfer the online repository to the subsequent Chair after election.
- d. **Subcommittees** – If subcommittees are formed, the Committee shall notify the director in writing and provide a description of the purpose of the subcommittee that is consistent with the statutorily-identified role of the Committee. Subcommittees shall be comprised of three or more Committee members and shall adhere to this Code of Conduct and the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

**V. Expectations of Members**

- a. Execute statutorily defined duties.
- b. Attend and participate in meetings.
- c. Adhere to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (see Section VII).
- d. Invest the effort to understand the complexities of the issues.
- e. Read the documents subject to review prior to discussing in meetings.
- f. Inform CalRecycle when changing position, leaving or joining an organization, or leaving the Committee.
- g. Inform CalRecycle of any changes to the private or personal interests required to be reported pursuant to Section VIII of this Code of Conduct.
- h. Engage in professional, respectful, and constructive conduct.
- i. Recognize that different perspectives are welcome and important to tackling difficult challenges.
- j. Public comments made outside a members' official role as part of the Committee, must be clearly stated as on behalf of the individual or individual's organization and not on behalf of the Committee.
- k. Let all members speak once before allowing anyone to speak a second time.
- l. Act with integrity and focus on the best interest of the California carpet stewardship program and program goals, rather than on personal interest.

- m. Committee members should limit distractions to the greatest extent possible, such as avoiding conducting work not related to the California carpet program during Committee meetings.

## **VI. Compensation and Reimbursement**

No compensation is due to members. However, members may be reimbursed by the Organization for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties, subject to the reimbursement policy provided by the Organization.

## **VII. The Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act**

The Committee shall conduct its statutory duties in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act set forth in [Government Code sections 11120-11132](#) to publicly notice meetings, prepare agendas, accept public testimony, and conduct meetings in public, unless specifically authorized by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act to meet in closed session. A more detailed handbook of the requirements for conducting meetings in accordance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act can be found here:

[https://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/bagleykeene\\_meetingact.pdf](https://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/bagleykeene_meetingact.pdf)

- a. Agendas and documents that the Committee requests CalRecycle post on its Internet website must be sent in an accessible format to [carpet@calrecycle.ca.gov](mailto:carpet@calrecycle.ca.gov) no less than 14 business days in advance of meetings. The Committee may choose to utilize another mechanism to notify the public of meetings subject to the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.
- b. Documents that are not posted that the Committee will discuss in meetings must be made available to the public upon request.

## **VIII. Private and Personal Interests**

PRC section 42972.1 requires the Committee to consist of members from specified stakeholder groups. Members apply their knowledge, skills, and experience to inform recommendations on Stewardship Plans, Plan Amendments, Annual Reports, and Budgets. Those recommendations may concern activities of the carpet stewardship program that potentially benefit the members themselves or their affiliates. Therefore, even though the Committee does not have any decision-making authority, Committee members must take special care to maintain a high ethical standard, which is crucial to the public's trust in the Committee.

Maintaining a high ethical standard requires careful attention to the possibility that Committee members may have individual interests that relate in some way to the Committee's work. For public officials, the Political Reform Act sets forth rules to account for any conflicts between private or personal interests and their duties as a public official. As described below, this Code of Conduct applies the principles underlying those rules to the context of membership on the Committee.

### **a. Political Reform Act**

In accordance with the Political Reform Act ([Government Code section 81000, et seq.](#) and [Title 2 California Code of Regulations Division 6 sections 18110 to 18998](#)), the Committee is required to adopt and file with the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) a Conflict of Interest Code, unless an exemption has been approved and issued by the FPPC. Title 2, Division 6 section [18751](#) provides the procedure and standards for obtaining an exemption from [Government Code section 87300](#), which requires adoption and promulgation of a Conflict of Interest Code.

On July 2, 2021, the Committee was granted an exemption from the FPPC because the Committee has no designated employees and does not make governmental decisions. Under the Political Reform Act, a conflict of interest can only exist with respect to a governmental decision if it is foreseeable that the decision will have a financial impact on personal finances or other financial interests. If there is no governmental decision at issue, there can be no conflict of interest under the Political Reform Act. The Committee is exempt from filing a Conflict of Interest Code for two years (until July 2, 2023). Prior to July 2, 2023, and as required by the FPPC thereafter, the Committee must either request another exemption from the FPPC (or request that CalRecycle seek an exemption on behalf of the Committee) or adopt and file a Conflict of Interest Code with the FPPC, if applicable. Title 2, Division 6 section 18751 provides the procedure and standards for obtaining an exemption from Government Code section 87300.

### **b. Disclosure of Interests**

Maintaining the public's trust requires compliance with ethics laws and avoiding the mere *perception* that the Committee is acting improperly. As such, members must not participate in any Committee activity unless they can do so without regard to how the action may affect their private or personal interests. Moreover, members must avoid even the appearance that their private or personal interests, rather than solely the public interest, motivate their participation on the Committee.

Therefore, separate from the Political Reform Act, in an effort to maintain transparency, Committee members are required to disclose to CalRecycle whether they have any private or personal interests that may be affected by the carpet stewardship program. These may include, but are not limited to, a contractual relationship with or receipt of grant awards or other funding from the Organization, employment with an entity participating in the program, or any other interest the member deems pertinent. Members must disclose such interests to CalRecycle (see Section IX, below), and update their disclosures to ensure they remain accurate at all times. All member disclosures will be posted on CalRecycle's website and shall be referred to in Committee agendas and meeting minutes.

## **IX. Member Disclosure and Agreement**

All members must agree and certify as follows:

Other than the interests identified below, I have no current private or personal interests that may be affected by the carpet stewardship program. I acknowledge that I must immediately notify CalRecycle of any change in the interests identified below and disclose to CalRecycle any additional interests that arise in the future.

**I currently hold the following private or personal interests that may be affected by the carpet stewardship program (if none, indicate as such here; do not leave blank):**

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***Although I am a member of the Committee solely in my capacity as an individual, not as a representative of any entity, this Code of Conduct requires disclosure of all affiliations that may be relevant to the Committee’s work. I am currently an employee of, a member, partner, or owner of, engaged in business with, or otherwise affiliated with the following organizations (e.g., businesses, public or industry interest groups, government agencies) whose primary purpose or activities relate to the carpet industry or the collection, processing, or recycling of postconsumer carpet:***

Organization	Position

**By signing this Code of Conduct, I agree to adhere to its requirements and certify that the factual representations made above are true and accurate.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name