

Statewide Commission on Recycling Markets and Curbside Recycling Draft Meeting Notes

Date: September 1, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Present:

Commissioners Bouchard, Cadena, Davis, Dell, Ferrante, Lapis, Kalpakoff, Medrano, Oseguera, Sanborn, Schneider, Toyoda, Valle, and Ward.

Absent:

Commissioners Donlevy, Skye

Agenda:

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order, Roll Call, and Establishment of Quorum

Chair Sanborn called the meeting to order. Commissioners Donlevy and Skye were absent. A quorum was established.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 2: Review and Potential Approval of Meeting Notes

No changes were made to the draft meeting notes from June 16, 2021. Commissioner Ward moved to approve the meeting notes and Commissioner Bouchard seconded. The meeting notes were unanimously approved by the Commission.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 3: Public Comment Review - Items Not on the Agenda

Public Comments (See Appendix I for full comments):

- Doreen Smith Power
- Tim Shestek (1)

Agenda Item 4: Response to the July Report

Commissioners discussed feedback and responses they have received about the July report. Commissioner Ward expressed feedback about altering the policy proposal format

to make it less focused on creating legislation and more applicable to non-policy or non-legislation based recommendations. When discussing potential topics for the Commissioners to address this session, Commissioner Dell suggested using CalRecycle Waste Characterization data to prioritize materials based on volumes and weights. Commissioner Schneider expressed the need for a more local government-focused lens, rather than solely statewide. Commissioner Ferrante suggested having a clearer process for the public to bring forward their policy recommendations and ideas. The Commissioners discussed the best process for members of the public or stakeholders to provide policy proposal ideas to the Commission. Chair Sanborn noted that they could reach the Commission through public comment or emails. Commissioner Ferrante also noted that the Commission should discuss other methods outside of legislation to accomplish their goals. Chair Sanborn updated the Commission that she and Vice Chair Valle have not yet been able to present the report to the legislature, but plan to after the end of the current legislative session.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 5: Discussion of Committees, Committee Assignments, and Report Frequency

The Commissioners discussed the frequency they want to provide reports for the coming year. Commissioner Ward supported the idea of updating the policy proposal report in January and July.

Commissioners discussed the current structure of the Committees, with four Committees: Labeling & Media, Organics, Recycling, and Market Development. Commissioner Davis suggested changing the structure of committees because a few committees had overlapping topics.

Commissioner Dell proposed that the Labeling and Media Committee be dissolved and instead add a standing agenda item for each meeting on the first Wednesday to discuss labeling, media, and enforcement. Chair Sanborn also recommended a standing agenda item to have CalRecycle present on their education and outreach campaign.

Chair Sanborn suggested that the Recycling and Market Development Committees could be combined. Commissioners Davis and Dell expressed interested in joining the Organics Committee. Guidance from CalRecycle was requested on whether there are Bagley-Keene restrictions on the number of Commissioners that can participate in a Committee.

Commissioner Davis suggested meeting as a “Committee as a Whole” to discuss Committee issues with the full Commission.

Chair Sanborn made a proposal which included: dissolving the Labeling & Media Committee and changing to a standing Commission agenda item; combining the Recycling and Market Development Committees; keeping the Organics Committee; and scheduling “Committee as a Whole” meetings as needed. Some Commissioners expressed support. Commissioner Dell expressed concerns about voting on merging the Recycling and Market Development Committee without Commissioner Donlevy, Chair of the Recycling Committee, present.

Commissioners decided to meet every 3rd Wednesday of the month as a Committee as a Whole to discuss issues related to the Recycling, Market Development, and Organics Committees. The first two hours of the meeting will be focused on Recycling and Market Development, followed by a thirty minute break, and continuing with two hours of the meeting focused on the Organics Committee.

In response to Tim Shestek's comment, the Commission stated that they would not consider adding packaging producers, advanced recycling representatives, or other plastic industry groups to the Commission, as the Commission represents California curbside recyclers, local governments, and the environmental community.

Public Comments:

- Tim Shestek (2)

Agenda Item 6: Commission Priorities for the Second Year

The Commission discussed what to prioritize in their second year, including different priority materials, engaging with industry, enforcement and implementation, principles of circular economy, and procurement.

Chair Sanborn identified potential priority materials including industrial cannabis waste, solar panels, batteries, and electronic waste.

Commissioner Ward stated that 20 companies are responsible for over 55% of single-use plastics, and recommended sending letters to these 20 companies asking them how they are planning to change their business models. Commissioner Dell agreed that the Commission should focus on more corporate engagement and enforcement and volunteered the Labeling and Media Committee to be a constructive body to provide criticism to corporations. Commissioner Davis also agreed with the idea of working with industry to bridge the gap between where they claim they want to be and where they are.

Commissioner Lapis stated an interest in focusing on enforcement and implementation, specifically as it pertains to green-washing bills. Commissioner Schneider talked about including an annual report on climate change and environmental goals for each city, which may help with enforcement. Commissioner Schneider suggested having a review of which policy proposals were successful and which weren't, continuing to highlight the importance of redemption centers.

Commissioner Toyoda suggested a focus on circular economy. Commissioner Ward agreed with that suggestion.

Commissioners Davis and Lapis expressed an interest in focusing on procurement, especially as it pertains to SB 1383 implementation. Commissioner Kalpakoff stated that from an organics perspective, procurement is an important topic to focus on. Commissioner Davis suggested that the Commission should discuss procurement from both a market development and organics perspective.

Public Comments:

- Shirley Frericks

Agenda Item 7: Update and Review of Legislation

Chair Sanborn discussed the current legislative bills that reflect the Commission's policy proposals by referencing the Commission scorecard (available on the Commission's Google Drive). The Commissioners are still not taking positions on the bills as Commissioners. CalRecycle Director Machi Wagoner will provide CalRecycle's feedback on the policy proposals at the next meeting on October 6, 2021.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 8: Agenda Items and Discussion of Future Meetings

The next meeting will be a Committee as a Whole meeting on September 15 from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm. At the next full Commission meeting on October 6, 2021, the Commission will look at bills that passed in the legislative session and Commissioner Ward will draft a letter to companies in the single-use plastic industry to discuss.

Public Comments: None

Agenda Item 9: Meeting Summary and Closing

Chair Sanborn summarized the meeting and the important action items. The meeting ended at approximately 11:10 am.

Public Comments: None

Appendix I:

Doreen Smith Power

We need to have a quarterly recycling report that states how at least the CRV that is dropped off is being reprocessed and sanitized to be reused. The public needs to be aware that recycling has not stopped. Who is working with who to continue the common goal of not burying our plastic and cans be processing the material to be reused.

Tim Shestek (1)

The Polypropylene Recycling Coalition has awarded another round of grant funding (\$1.8 million), allowing more local recycling programs to provide curbside polypropylene collection. The latest round of funding includes a recipient here in CA. More information can be found at the following link: <https://recyclingpartnership.org/polypropylene-mrf-grants/>

Tim Shestek (2)

Would the Commission consider making a recommendation to the Legislature that the make-up of the commission be expanded to include representatives from entities such as material suppliers, consumer brand companies, packaging producers, advanced recycling technology providers and others that can bring an important perspective to future conversations. An advisory committee just convened in WA State to look at policies

around recycled content in plastic packaging includes a diverse set of stakeholders.
Thank you.

Shirley Freriks

First, kudos for the many recommendations that have resulted in legislative bills. I look forward to seeing the recap of what passed and what did not plus what needs further work. One place I suggest we focus on is the plastics industry since I see they are out in force against the Plastic Free bills. How can I help? Thank you

