**Rural Counties Environmental Services Joint Powers Authority**

**Board of Directors & Technical Advisory Meeting Minutes**

**1215 K St., Suite 1650**

**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**Thursday, March 27, 2025**

**VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jeff Gardner Amador County

Craig Cissell Butte County

Tedd Ward Del Norte County

Supervisor Lori Parlin El Dorado County

Jose Castaneda Imperial County

Lars Ewing Lake County

Jared Carter Madera County

Supervisor Rhonda Duggan Mono County

Narcisa Untal Solano County

Supervisor Tom Walker Tehama County

Diane Rader Trinity County

Deborah Reagan Tuolumne County

**STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Staci Heaton, Deputy Executive Director Rural Counties ESJPA

Larry Sweetser, ESJPA Consultant Sweetser and Associates, Inc.

John Kennedy, Senior Policy Advocate RCRC

Eric Will, Director of Local Assistance RCRC

Julie Lunn, Office Coordinator RCRC

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Mark de Bie, CalRecycle

Alvin VoTran, CalRecycle

Emily Wang, CalRecycle

Melissa Vargas, CalRecycle

Joanne Brasch, California Product Stewardship Council

Heidi Sanborn, National Stewardship Action Council

Christine Messer, Mattress Recycling Council

Eric Humphreys, PaintCare

### Call to Order, Self-Introductions, and Determination of Quorum

Supervisor Lori Parlin, ESJPA, called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A quorum was determined at that time, and Staci Heaton, ESJPA Deputy Executive Director, gave an overview of meeting procedures in accordance with the Brown Act.

#### Business Matters

* + 1. The Board considered minutes from the December 12, 2024 meeting for approval. Motion/Second to approve the minutes by Amador County/Tuolumne County. Motion approved unanimously.

1. **Public Comment**

None noted.

1. **Presentations**
   * 1. CalRecycle Illegal Disposal Emergency Regulations

Mark de Bie and Alvin VoTran gave an overview of CalRecycle’s emergency regulations to help with California’s illegal disposal problem.

* + 1. CalRecycle Used Oil Recycling Program Update

Emily Wang, CalRecycle, gave an overview of CalRecycle’s used oil program and answered questions about what to do with contaminated oil.

* + 1. Report from CalRecycle

Melissa Vargas, CalRecycle, gave an update on various items at CalRecycle, including:

SB 1383 webinars, including implementation in the multi-family sector from March 19. The recording is on CalRecycle’s YouTube page

Grants opening up include Farm and Ranch Solid Waste Clean-Up and Abatement Program, April 2. Tire Amnesty applications due April 8. Local Conservation Corps due April 17. Beverage Container Recycling Loan program is continuous. GGRF has a continuous application date. Recycling Market Development Zone Loan program is continuous.

SB 54 Advisory Committee on March 14. Covered Electronic Waste Recovery Payment Rate workshop on April 8 at 10 a.m. @ CalEPA.

Next public meeting April 22 virtual only this month.

Ms. Vargas promised to get information in response to questions about the next waste characterization study timeline, as well as the status of SB 1383 compliance evaluations.

#### Member County Concerns/Comments

Craig Cissell, Butte County, posed a question on how the group is addressing trash service in areas heavily populated by bears. Several members offered suggestions, but noted that certain bear containers may not meet SB 1383 requirements.

Lars Ewing, Lake County, asked if anyone was working on a beverage container pilot program with CalRecycle. Paul Freund, Tehama County, volunteered that they are working on one.

#### Legislative Update

John Kennedy, RCRC Senior Policy Advocate, discussed a number of bills included in the supplemental legislative packet, including AB 337, AB 411, AB 436, AB 1046, AB 473, AB 973, SB 14, AB 672, SB 615, AB 998, SB 501, AB 1325, and AB 1153.

Paul Freund, Tehama County, asked about AB 1046 and how it relates to food processing facilities which are very opinionated about compliance with SB 1383.

1. **Extended Producer Responsibility** 
   * California Product Stewardship Council Update – Joanne Brasch, Director of Advocacy and Outreach, CPSC

Ms. Brasch noted that Mr. Kennedy covered the main CPSC bills. AB 80 will make small changes to the carpet bill. AB 864, happy to share the first draft. Industry is neutral. Ms. Brasch also discussed the microfiber beads bill as well as AB 916, the Safer Soap Act.

* + National Stewardship Action Council Update – Heidi Sanborn, Founding Executive Director, National Stewardship Action Council

Ms. Sanborn noted that she has been contacted by companies about the chemical recycling issues related to SB 54 and the textiles recycling bill. They’re questioning the relationship between the two. RCRC co-sponsoring hazardous waste EPR bill, will be heavy lift.

* + Mattress Recycling Council Update – Christine Messer, Northern California Program Coordinator

Ms. Messer noted that seasonal sites are going to be opening back up.

Deborah Reagan, Tuolumne County, offered that the program is working at transfer stations in her county.

* + PaintCare Update – Eric Humphreys, California Regional Program Coordinator, PaintCare

Mr. Humphreys noted that they have picked up facilities in several RCRC/ESJPA counties and are continuing to expand pick-up sites. No PaintCare events this year, will pick them up next year.

1. **Solid Waste/Regulatory Update**

Discussion and possible action related to the following:

* + 1. CalRecycle

1. SB 54 Implementation

Mr. Kennedy discussed the status of the regulations and some of the politics behind reopening the process.

1. SB 1383 Implementation

Mr. Sweetser discussed the status of compliance reviews.

1. SB 1013 Dealer Co-Op Regulations

Mr. Kennedy noted that these regulations will change how the beverage container program works.

Tedd Ward, Del Norte County, asked if ESJPA nominated a rural member for the SB 54 Advisory Committee. Ms. Heaton noted that Scott Scholz from Western Placer was ESJPA’s nominee.

1. Illegal Dumping

Mr. Sweester noted that the Illegal Dumping Advisory Committee is currently working in subgroups on how to start a task force and how to collaborate internally.

1. Illegal Dumping Land Application Regulation

The discussion was deferred due to the earlier presentation and discussion.

1. Department of Toxics Substances Control
   * 1. Program Updates – Larry Sweetser

Mr. Sweetser noted that DTSC has been very active, doing inspections, etc.

* + 1. eVQ Questionnaire – Larry Sweetser

Mr. Sweetser Noted that the deadline is Monday, which is a state holiday.

1. California Air Resources Board
   * 1. Advanced Clean Fleets

Ms. Heaton discussed the status of CARB’s Advanced Clean Fleets regulations and RCRC’s sponsored bill, Senate Bill 496 (Hurtado). The bill would clarify and broaden exemptions for local government fleet vehicles.

1. State Water Resources Control Board
   * 1. Water Quality Fees

Mr. Sweetser noted that he is watching for fee increases for the next fiscal year.

1. Grant Program and Contracts Update
   * 1. CalRecycle Rural Zero Waste Plan – Larry Sweetser, Eric Will, RCRC Director of Local Assistance, and Jason Hansen, RCRC Economic Development Officer

Mr. Sweetser noted that he would be doing a deeper dive during the TAG session in the afternoon. Mr. Will introduced Mr. Hansen and gave updates on the process. It was noted that we need to have conversations with Accenture, working through an NDA process so we can be privy to their data. Mr. Hansen noted that we are trying to paint a picture of what it means to be rural, and we have gathered local demographic and economic data to help flesh that out.

Craig Cissell, Butte County, noted that homeless waste wasn’t considered in the latest CalRecycle zero waste conversation. Mr. Sweetser agreed that we have not weighed in but are taking notes on such deficiencies, another being disaster debris. Larry—haven’t chimed in but have been taking notes. Another one is disasters. How to divert disaster debris.

Supervisor Parlin how many will be considered rural? Mr. Sweetser noted that it is 19 counties, but we will also be looking at “remote areas” because they have the same issues. We w ant to find a pathway to address it.

* + 1. ESJPA Ongoing and Potential Grants – Larry Sweetser and Eric Will

Mr. Sweetser encouraged members to view the information in their packet. The tire grant is opening up, ESJPA will be submitting regional application.

* + 1. SB 1383 Local Assistance Grants – Larry Sweetser

ESJPA will be reaching out, we realize that some counties have issues with their grant funds.

1. Highlights of December 2024-March 2025 CalRecycle Monthly Meetings – Larry Sweetser

The CalRecycle meetings have been light on content, and there have been issues with sharps/pharms program.

1. Other Regulatory Announcements/Issues of Interest

Mr. Sweetser noted that CARB’s toxic hot spots for landfills program will require sampling for landfills, and there will be a pool of landfills to test. ESJPA is working on looking at a rural pool to help with cost share.

1. Agenda Suggestions, Member County Presentation Volunteer, Workshop Topics for Next ESJPA Board Meeting Scheduled June 2025

Deborah Reagan, Tuolumne County, volunteered to present on the County’s green waste diversion program.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.