MANDATORY RECYCLING & SINGLE USE BAG ORDINANCES

Presentation to the Albany City Council October 17, 2011 Gary Wolff, P.E., Ph.D. Executive Director, StopWaste.Org



About StopWaste.Org:

- Alameda County Waste Management Authority & Recycling Board
- JPA representing 14 cities, 2 Sanitary Districts and the County on recycling& waste issues
- Funded by landfill tip fees
- →Mission:
 - Divert 90% of readily recyclable and compostable materials by 2020

Mandatory Recycling Ordinance: Purpose

- Meet Countywide diversion goals
- Meet Albany's diversion goals
- Meet Albany's Climate Action Plan diversion reduction goals =lower GHG
- Comply with Statewide Mandatory Recycling Regulation
- Enhance the economy through increased recycling and composting

State Mandatory Recycling Regulation

- Requires businesses and MF buildings generating at least 4 cubic yards of solid waste per week to recycle.
- Requires Cities to conduct outreach, monitor compliance and notify businesses who are out-of-compliance.
- Supports enforcement, but not required
- Supports mandatory ordinance, but not required.

Draft Environmental Impact Report

- Draft released August 2
- Final due: October 28
- Significant Impact: NOx in San Joaquin Valley from increased organics
- Mitigations: Send fewer organic tons to San Joaquin Valley; retrofit trucks to emit less NOx.
- No Significant Impacts Identified from Single Use Bag Ordinance

Mandatory Recycling: Potential Economic Impacts

- Costs to Businesses of increased recycling
- Cost to Hauler to provide increased recycling
- Cost to City of decreased franchise fee revenues
- Cost to Government Agency(ies) to Implement

Mandatory Recycling: Potential Economic Benefits

- Reduced cost of complying with statewide regulation at each jurisdiction
- Increased revenue from sale of recyclables/compost & avoided disposal cost
- Jobs created in collection and processing
- Level playing field for businesses
- Savings for some businesses from increased recycling

Mandatory Recycling Ordinance Parameters to Consider:

- 1. Type of Generators to Cover
- 2. Size of Commercial Generator to Cover
- 3. Material Types Covered
- 4. Exemptions
- 5. Implementation Timeline
- 6. Countywide or Subgroup

1. Types of Generators to Cover?

- > Commercial accounts only
- Commercial + Multi-family accounts
- → Comm. + Multi-family + Self-haul
- Comm. + MF + Self-haul + Single Family: All accounts

2. Size Commercial Generator to Cover?

- 4 cy/wk + Approximately 7,000 accounts county-wide.
- 4 cy/wk + as of a specified date:
 Approximately 7,000 accounts county-wide.
- All accounts: Accounts with 32 gallons or more of garbage service per week.
 Approximately 20,000 accounts county-wide.

3. Materials Types Covered?

- Basic recyclables: Cans, bottles, recyclable paper, and cardboard
- Basic + organics now: Cans, bottles, recyclable paper, cardboard, food scraps and compostable paper.
- Basic + organics later: Cans, bottles, recyclable paper, cardboard as of 2012. Food scraps and compostable paper as of 2014 or later.
- > Other materials added

4. Exemptions

- No space
- No service
- Economic Hardship
- De Minimus amount

5. Implementation Timeline

- Notification period of 6 months
 Initial notification, outreach and education first 6 months.
- Warning period of 6 months:

6. Countywide or Subgroup?

- Ordinance should apply within the boundaries of member agencies that want it to apply.
- ▶ Opt-out Option
- Opt-in Option

Single Use Bag Ordinance Basics:

- No single use bag distribution
- > \$0.10 on paper bags
- \$0.10 on reusable bags (including plastic bags designed for reuse)

Purpose

- Reduce use of single use items
- Reduce landfilling of single use bags
- Reduce litter in storm drains, at landfills and at transfer stations
- Meet RWQCB trash reduction requirements in municipal regional stormwater permits

Economic Cost

- No cost to retailer
- No cost to customers who bring bag

Economic Benefit

- Reduced litter clean up costs
- Reduced downtime for sorting line maintenance
- Ca jobs associated with production of reusable bags

Single Use Bag Ordinance Parameters

- 1. Type of Retailer to Cover
- 2. Implementation Timeline
- 3. Countywide or Subgroup

1. Type Of Retailer to Include

- Large stores/pharmacies only: Approximately 175 (estimated) retail establishments countywide.
- Sales of Packaged Food: Drug stores, pharmacies, supermarkets, grocery stores, convenience food stores, foodmarts, liquor stores and others selling packaged food. Approximately 1900 (estimated) retail establishments county-wide.
- All retail except restaurants & prepared food businesses: Approximately 7,150 (estimated) retail establishments county-wide.

2. Implementation Timeline

- Notify 6 months
- Warnings 6 months
- → Option of Shorter timeline, Longer timeline
- · Phased implementation

3. Countywide or Subgroup

- Ordinance should apply within the boundaries of member agencies that want it to apply.
- · Committee feedback?

Next Steps/Timeline

- → Continue Stakeholder outreach
- Ordinance recommendation to Member Agency Staff TAC: October 14
- Certification of EIR and first reading of ordinances: November 16 WMA
- Second reading and ordinance decision: December 14 WMA

Questions?