

**CITY OF ALBANY
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: February 21, 2012
Reviewed by: BP

SUBJECT: Alameda County Waste Management Authority Board Mandatory Recycling and Single Use Bag Ordinances

REPORT BY: Nicole Almaguer, City Clerk

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Council not “opt-out” of participation in the mandatory recycling and single use bag ordinances as developed by Stopwaste.Org and approved by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority Board.

BACKGROUND

On October 17, 2011, per the request of Council Member Wile as the City Council’s representative to the Waste Management Authority Board, Council received a presentation from Stopwaste.Org Executive Director Gary Wolff regarding development of the countywide mandatory recycling and single use bag ordinances.

As discussed within the October 17, 2011 staff report, the ordinances are intended to help achieve the countywide goal to increase diversion rates, and to comply with the State of California’s Mandatory Recycling Regulation for commercial and residential recycling as part of the AB 32 Scoping Plan. The ordinances go beyond the requirements established by the State in an effort to achieve a higher level of sustainability within Alameda County. Additionally, the ordinances match a number of goals outlined within the City’s Climate Action Plan. The single use bag ban also helps the City comply with the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit, which requires trash load reduction and litter management.

DISCUSSION

The Waste Management Authority Board adopted the mandatory recycling and single use bag ordinances on January 25, 2012. The ordinances are applicable countywide, and do not require any formal opt-in from the jurisdictions covered by the ordinances beyond designation of the primary staff contact for each jurisdiction. If a jurisdiction prefers to opt-out of coverage, formal action via resolution must be taken by March 2, 2012. Per discussion at the October 17, 2011 presentation to City Council, general support was expressed for the proposed ordinances.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT

As identified in the October 17, 2011 staff report, the mandatory recycling and single use bag ordinances will help achieve the Waste Reduction Strategy (WR-1.1) as identified in the City's Climate Action Plan, and promote overall sustainability regarding these particular waste streams.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Per the City's franchise agreement with Waste Management of Alameda County, commercial and multi-family accounts receive recycling at no additional charge, and a 50% subsidy is provided for organics collection. Generally, commercial and multi-family sites can realize a savings by decreasing the size of trash containers and better utilizing recycling and organics services. Additionally, the ordinances include language regarding hardship should a case arise.

Attachments

1. January 26, 2012 correspondence from Stopwaste.Org, including the ordinances and summaries
2. October 17, 2011 City Council staff report.