

WEST CONTRA COSTA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WCCIWMA) BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 23, 2025

Meeting Date | Time 10/23/2025 6:15 PM | Meeting Location City of El Cerrito City Hall & Council Chambers, 10890 San Pablo Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Meeting called by Board of Directors

Type of meeting Special

Authority Staff Present Reka Abraham, Lisa Borreani, Rachel Dice, Cliff Feldman and Viviane Vidal

Legal Counsel John Bakker

Board Members Present:

Directors: C. Zepeda (Chair); J. Brown and D. Robinson, Richmond; W. Ktsanes, El Cerrito; D. Bhattarai, Hercules; and R. Xavier (Vice Chair) San Pablo

Absent: A. Tave, Pinole; S. Scales-Preston and J. Gioia (Ex-Officio), Contra Costa County

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Zepeda called the regular meeting of the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority (WCCIWMA), also known as RecycleMore, to order at 6:15 P.M.

The Roll Call established the existence of a quorum (Bhattarai, Brown, Ktsanes, Robinson, Xavier and Zepeda).

CLOSED SESSION

There was no Closed Session.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Zepeda led the Pledge of Allegiance.

EX-PARTE COMMUNICATIONS & DISCLOSURES

There were no ex-parte communications or disclosures.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No written comments were submitted, or oral comments made, by any member of the public.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Ktsanes pulled Item 2 from the Consent Calendar.

Executive Director Cliff Feldman stated with respect to Item 2, the WCCIWMA Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements, that the item had been submitted for information only and no action was requested from the Board of Directors. The item was on the Consent Calendar because it needed to be filed as a permanent record pursuant to WCCIWMA's Records Retention Policy.

Director Ktsanes explained that he had pulled the item given a concern for the Auditor's bullets and highlights related to a number of deficiencies that he stated were not ordinary, and he looked forward to improvement. He expressed concern that WCCIWMA did not have a dedicated finance position on staff to conduct financials for the Authority. In the future, he asked that the financials be provided sooner so that he could share his concerns in advance of the meeting.

Executive Director Feldman agreed with the concerns and commented that the most recent audit for the fiscal year 2024-2025 would represent an improvement over the prior year's audit.

Director Bhattarai also had questions about the audit and asked for clarifications.

Mr. Feldman explained that neither he nor some of WCCIWMA staff were present in 2023-24 when the audit had been done. He clarified that some of the shortcomings identified in the audit had already been addressed and others were a work in progress. He could return with more specific details from the auditing firm that was close to completing the 2024-25 audit, and the Board would be given ample time to review and discuss that audit, with measures put in place to address the deficiencies.

Director Robinson asked if the WCCIWMA Board was presented with quarterly financials and how WCCIWMA financials were currently reported out and in what detail.

Mr. Feldman understood that the financials were reported in the annual budget process. He did not see that the financials had been reported to the Board on a quarterly basis prior.

Director Robinson requested a regular Board financial summary, in writing, to inform the Board of what was going on and to address problems before the end of the year to avoid the same problems in the future.

Chair Zepeda left Item 2 on Consent given that it had been discussed.

1. July 24, 2025 Special Authority Board Meeting Minutes: (Motion to Approve)
2. WCCIWMA Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audited Financial Statements: (Information only report to be stored as permanent records pursuant to the Authority's Records Retention Policy - Resolution 22-14 adopted July 14, 2022) **(ITEM PULLED FOR DISCUSSION BUT REMAINED ON CONSENT AFTER DISCUSSION)**
3. Clean Harbors Marine Flares Transport and Disposal Service Agreement: (Motion to approve a Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Service Agreement with Clean Harbors to provide marine flares collection and disposal services in a form approved by the Authority attorney, for a not-to-exceed amount of \$30,000)

MOTION by Director Robinson to approve Consent Calendar Items 1, 2 and 3, as submitted.
SECOND by Director Xavier.

MOTION PASSED by the following Roll Call vote:

AYES:	Brown, Ktsanes, Robinson, Xavier and Zepeda
NOES:	None
ABSTAIN:	Bhattarai*
ABSENT:	Tave

*Director Bhattarai voted Aye on Items 1 and 3, and Abstained on Item 2 only.

STAFF REPORT

Staff Report Item 7.1 – Update from Executive Director | Presenter | Cliff Feldman - Executive Director

Executive Director Cliff Feldman reported again that the 2024-2025 Financial Audit would be submitted to the Board soon. He was also following up SB 54 regulatory changes and he would be reporting to the Board when the new regulations were issued. He was hopeful that some of the comments he and other solid waste executive directors had submitted had been incorporated into those regulations.

Staff Report Item 7.2 – Recycling and HHW Program Update | Presenter | Reka Abraham – Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Program Manager

The report from the Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program Manager was presented in writing. There were no questions from the Board.

Reka Abraham, Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Program Manager, highlighted a portion of the report and stated that the RecycleMore ads were now on the WestCAT bus transit system to promote compost diversion; there would be a Bike Repair Workshop in collaboration with Rich City Rides and the Richmond Tool Library on October 26, 2025 from 12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Rich City Rides bike shop at 1500 Macdonald Avenue, Suite A in Richmond for all West County residents; and RecycleMore would host the special Marine Flares Collection event at the Richmond HHW facility located at 101 Pittsburg Avenue in Richmond from October 29 to November 8, 2025 during facility hours.

Staff Report Item 7.3 – Outreach Programs Update | Presenter | Lisa Borreani – Outreach Program Manager

The report from the Marketing and Operations Manager for the outreach program was presented in writing. There were no questions from the Board.

Lisa Borreani, Marketing and Operations Manager,, also highlighted the ad program for the WestCAT system and reported that the photo shoot for those ads, which had focused on food scraps recycling, had been produced in-house. The ads would run from October 15, 2025 to the end of January 2026.

REGULAR AGENDA

Agenda Item 8.1 – Workshop on the New Post Collection Agreement with Republic Services Commencing January 1, 2026 | Presenter | Cliff Feldman - Executive Director

Executive Director Feldman took this opportunity to thank all those involved in the process from Republic Services, RecycleMore and WCCIWMA Legal Counsel.

Mr. Feldman explained that the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement (JEPA) establishing WCCIWMA had included the responsibility for the Authority to manage the Post-collection Agreement (PCA), which handled all the material generated by the ratepayers from all the member agencies collected by their respective franchised haulers.

In October 2024, a Request for Proposal (RFP) had been issued for new post collection services and WCCIWMA had received one proposal from Republic Services, the incumbent service provider. Negotiations commenced in March 2025, and in June 2025 the existing agreement was extended for six-months to the end of 2025.

Mr. Feldman reported that the term of the new agreement was for 14.5 years to make it co-terminus with the franchise agreements of those member agencies utilizing Richmond Sanitary Service, specifically the San Pablo/Richmond agreements. There was also the possibility for two five-year extensions. The scope of services was by and large the same scope of service as the prior agreement, which included solid waste transfer and disposal; recyclable materials processing and diversion from the landfill; organic materials (green waste, food scraps) compost production and diversion from the landfill; Construction and Demolition (C&D) materials recycling processing and diversion from the landfill; the HHW Program operation of permanent and satellite facility in El Cerrito; and mattresses drop-off collection and recycling.

Mr. Feldman referred to additional value-added provisions to the new PCA. The Authority manages compliance with SB 1383 and it would continue the monthly residential compost giveaway program, although new in the PCA would be the procurement of compost to help member agencies meet the SB 1383 CalRecycle compost procurement compliance requirements, which mandates quite a bit of compost procurement. The current flow of information would continue in order to facilitate mandatory compliance reporting, tours of the recycling facility would continue for students, and there was a provision for cost assurance if SB 54 required an upgrade to the recycling processes, for example, where the operator would be held accountable and ratepayers would not have to pay for anything related to SB 54 responsibilities.

Mr. Feldman also reported that the compensation methodology remained unchanged and the PCA would continue with the blended per ton rate model. He explained the blended per ton rate translated to what the collection companies pay to deliver materials via the PCA, and the components include the material specific cost, which is what West County Resource Recovery receives to manage that material, the Household Hazardous Waste program budget, which the Board is to approve, government fees and the WCCIWMA budget that had been approved earlier in the year.

Mr. Feldman stated the primary rate impact associated with the new PCA was the material specific component, the price paid to the Company for all material delivered to the West County Resource Recovery facilities. He reported that for the first three years there would be a fixed cost and the next three years there would be an annual CPI adjustment with a cap of 5 percent. In the seventh year, there would be a 6 percent CPI maximum but also a one-time true-up of the excess above the 5 percent cap for the prior three years. In Year 8, there would be a 7 percent cap with a one-year rollover.

Mr. Feldman responded to questions and offered examples of how the rollover would work, and how the costs had been set along with potential adjustments, and the Year 7 one-time true-up of the excess above the 5 percent cap for the prior three years. In further response to comments, he reported that the material specific rate as of June 30, 2025 prior to the expiration of the contract was \$94, and beginning on July 1, 2025, the rate went up 53 percent to \$144.01. Beginning January 1, 2026, it would go up 10 percent to \$158.41. The next two fixed increases would be 10 percent on the previous year, or \$174.25 for Year 2 and \$191.68 for Year 3. He clarified that over a four-year period the increase would be roughly 100 percent.

As to the rationale for such a big increase in such a short time, Mr. Feldman clarified his understanding that Republic Services wanted to increase the price significantly up front to mitigate any potential losses towards the back of the contract given that the CPI increases Republic was entitled to receive under the previous contract had not kept pace with costs, and Republic had been underwater on the contract for several years running. With respect to the CPI, he stated there were hundreds of Consumer Price Indexes (CPIs) and the CPI used in the new PCA, which was not specific to the Bay Area region, was specific to solid waste and recycling, using the index for the water, sewer and trash industry. He also confirmed that not every jurisdiction had a PCA and few, if any, have a blended rate. He advised that he could prepare and provide a rate survey from jurisdictions in Contra Costa, Solano, Alameda and Marin counties.

With the continued concern expressed by members of the Board for the rationale for the up-front increases and with the possibility that might require a Closed Session, Mr. Feldman stated that he could request clarification from Republic Services and include that information in the staff report for the November 13, 2025 meeting when the approval of the contract would be considered.

Mr. Feldman explained with respect to the blended per ton rate for the first year of the contract that it was difficult to compare the 2025 rate commencing on July 1, 2025 blended per ton rate with the January 1, 2026 rate because two components were being omitted from the January 2026 rate; the recycling rebate component and the change in law component. The components that would be considered would be material specific, HHW Program, government fees, and the WCCIWMA budget. He noted that the recycling rebate had been discontinued in an effort to keep the material specific rate down. The result was that the blended per ton rate on July 1, 2025 of \$174.35 would become \$195.98 effective January 1, 2026.

The revenue requirement would be \$32 million, and of that \$29 million would be collected through the PCA from the ratepayers with collection service through Richmond Sanitary Service, and the remaining \$3 million would be collected by El Cerrito ratepayers. The revenue requirement would then determine the Post Collection Rates. He reported that the rate impact for the first year of the agreement (for a 35-gallon residential cart), would average a 3.07 percent adjustment for the member agencies: Contra Costa County, Hercules, Pinole, Richmond, and San Pablo. That rate was for the complete package of existing rates being charged to customers as of July 1, 2025, with the exception of El Cerrito, and the collection rate would not change for the full year. El Cerrito would have full rate autonomy with the PCA, but its obligation was fixed at \$3 million and East Bay Sanitary (El Cerrito's collection company) would be charged \$195.98 per ton for the material delivered to West County Resource Recovery and the City of El Cerrito would retain its rights to have full rate autonomy. El Cerrito would then decide how to allocate the \$3 million cost across its rate base.

In response to questions, Mr. Feldman described the tables in the staff report dated October 23, 2025, and explained what the ratepayers in each member agency would be paying; clarified why El Cerrito had not been included in the PCA rates; and suggested that information could be formatted in such a way to compare the rates on January 1 to January 1 (removing the complication of the July 1 to January 1 adjustment), and how that could more simply be communicated to the public.

AMANDA BOOTH, Environmental Program Manager, City of San Pablo, clarified as part of the discussion that while the ratepayers from some member agencies received bills every other month or quarterly, bills could be requested on a monthly basis.

Mr. Feldman noted that there were more than just residential customers and he provided a table to clarify the commercial and industrial rates as well.

Director Ksantes expressed concern that Section 2.4.1 cut reference to the El Cerrito HHW agreement. Executive Director Feldman clarified that that section is not the appropriate place for the reference to the El Cerrito agreement, and that it was included in the HHW section of the agreement.

Mr. Feldman responded to questions and reiterated that he would ask Republic Services for a statement related to the escalation in cost and he would provide a comparison of data, although it would be difficult to find a situation similar to WCCIWMA's and its blended per ton rate that could not be compared to most other agencies' rates in that it did not have a rate just for composting, disposal and processing and recycling. He also responded to requests for a communication plan for the ratepayers.

Agenda Item 8.2 – Workshop Presenting the PCA Related Rates and Household Hazardous Waste Program Budget for 2026 | Presenter | Cliff Feldman - Executive Director

Executive Director Feldman provided a recap that the PCA relied on the blended per ton rate charged to the franchised haulers for material delivered to the West County Resource Recovery facilities; the revenue used to pay compensation for the PCA and the WCCIWMA Budget.

Mr. Feldman also reiterated the components that made up the blended per ton rate, which when multiplied by the total tons produced would identify the revenue requirement to generate the money needed to pay the bills, which would then be divided into the service levels that would determine the Post Collection Rates that would be spread across to residential, commercial and industrial ratepayers. The blended per ton rate for 2026 is \$195.98. He explained that in 2026, the revenue requirement would go up given that the 2026 blended per ton rate and the revenue requirement would be \$32 million, and of that \$29 million would be collected through the PCA from the Richmond Sanitary Services ratepayers, and the remaining \$3 million would be collected from El Cerrito ratepayers. He described the service types and identified how to allocate the costs across the different rate bases. He added that the Board would have four decisions related to the approval of the rates. Those four decisions would involve residential customers and the rates spread across the cart sizes (service levels) and billing periods; commercial rates per cubic yard for commercial customers; per ton rates for industrial customers; and the revenue obligation for the City of El Cerrito.

In response to questions, Mr. Feldman explained the service levels for residential, and while there was no discount associated with the PCA, Richmond Sanitary Service offered a \$5 senior discount in some member agency jurisdictions.

Mr. Feldman identified the HHW Budget as one of the four components of the blended per ton rate that was annually approved by the Board. He highlighted changes in the new agreement versus the old agreement and stated in the old agreement there was a CPI index in the cost of Republic providing the HHW service and a balancing account to reconcile actual expenditures in a true-up two years in arrears. That process would be changed into a two-year cycle starting out the base year with the current proposed budget based on the actual expenditures for 2024, given that there was supporting documentation to identify the actual cost that year. The second year of the PCA would be based on 2025 actuals (one-year in arrears). The same would be applied each continuing year.

Mr. Feldman responded to comments on the HHW Budget calculation now versus what it had been in the past, and why the HHW Program budget had increased. He stated his plan for the HHW Program was to work with the Company to look at the trends, the participation, the materials and make sure that the services were being promoted to ensure the ratepayers all benefited from the cost of using that program. He also stated that tracking the HHW Program would be on an annual basis.

Mr. Feldman added that another major change was related to the operating margin that the Company charged and how their profit was calculated. The prior agreement had a 15 percent operating margin on all the costs associated with the HHW Program, and the new agreement changed to a fixed management fee amount. He offered an example of how that would work and how at a dollar amount of the budget the fixed management fee would work out to the ratepayers' benefit. When asked by Director Xavier if it would be cost effective for WCCIWMA to take on the management of the HHW Program, Mr. Feldman clarified that the HHW Program was included in the PCA, a service that Republic Services provided. WCCIWMA did not have a facility that it could manage since there was no place to house and operate it, which was why Republic Services provided the HHW Program.

Further describing the changes in the HHW Program under the new PCA, Mr. Feldman stated in 2025 the HHW budget was approximately \$1.5 million or \$9.25 per ton. The HHW Program was a component of the blended per ton rate. It was also a component in the new PCA and the budget would increase 49 percent. He described that

increase as caused by a 40 percent increase in the third-party HHW disposal, 100 percent increase in the two one-day HHW events, an 18 percent increase in the balancing account, and a 16 percent increase for management. As a result, the cost from 2025 to 2026 had increased from \$9.25 per ton to \$13.78 per ton.

In response to questions about the management fee, Mr. Feldman noted that the fee could be called any number of things. The management fee provided the agreed upon profit that the Company was getting in addition to expenses associated with their overall management of the program. This was seen as a benefit to the ratepayers in lieu of the Company taking all of the costs associated with it and getting an automatic 15 percent. Mr. Feldman clarified that the main driver for the increase in costs was the disposal component, now one third of the baseline budget for 2026. Asked whether the HHW Program was required by law, he explained that AB 939 required a hazardous waste element, which in turn required jurisdictions to offer those services.

Ms. Abraham responded to the question of whether or not there was an option to forego the one-day HHW collection events in the community, which had been budgeted at \$185,000, where members of the community could go to that location rather than going to the permanent facility in Richmond. She stated the HHW events were quite popular, especially the farther away from the permanent facility when residents would likely store their hazardous materials than drive to Richmond. As a result, those events were a preventative measure, helped to prevent hoarding situations such as the previous incident in San Pablo, and was an easy outlet to encourage folks to safely dispose of hazardous materials. She described it as a very impactful program.

Mr. Feldman clarified the impact of the cost of HHW events on the ratepayer by explaining that a \$100,000 expense (in the \$32 million overall system that did not include the collection cost), represented \$0.07 per month on the 32-gallon residential cart. Over 12 months, that would be \$0.84. For Richmond's current monthly rate of \$58.47 for a 32-gallon cart, residents paid \$701.64 per year. A \$100,000 increase in the overall cost was 0.119 percent. The cost of the program at \$185,000 would roughly equate to \$1.60 for a 32-gallon cart per year for two one-day HHW events.

Ms. Abraham explained how popular the two one-day HHW events were when folks lined up all day for the event which went late to accommodate them, and which encouraged others to utilize the events, discouraged hoarding and improved safety. She commented that not all jurisdictions had such HHW events and those jurisdictions were considering creating them because of their popularity. She clarified that while disposal costs were the same, the one-day events were more expensive because there were more regulatory requirements given that the events were not in a permanent facility and the entire parking lot, for instance, had to be tarped and more staff were required to manage vehicles coming in and out, along with other logistic expenses. She stated the events were for residential only, no commercial allowed, and IDs were checked. When asked, she stated she could break down the costs per day and provide that information to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Feldman highlighted Alameda County's HHW Program and individual HHW events held in each of Alameda County's 17 jurisdictions where those events on an RSVP basis were always sold out. He added that one of WCCIWMA's services was a door-to-door program providing service to the disabled and seniors.

Mr. Feldman also referred to the proposed 2026 HHW Budget that showed a 49 percent overall increase, identified the primary budget items, and highlighted the outside revenue component, a deduct on WCCIWMA's overall program budget, which would be looked at closely and potentially enhanced in the future to the benefit of the ratepayers.

Ms. Abraham clarified the outside revenue category as agreements with other entities who would pay to access the facility to dispose of HHW materials; very small quantity generators, who were allowed to drop off materials, with restrictions, where 100 percent of the funds generated by those entities would be distributed to WCCIWMA to reduce the annual budget.

