

County of Santa Cruz
Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force Mtg
December 6, 2018 3-5pm
Capitola City Council Chambers



Minutes

Present: Larry Laurent, Bob Nelson, Jack Dilles, Noel Bock, Mike Rivera

Staff: Kasey Kolassa, Beau Hawksford, Tim Goncharoff

1. Oral Communications from the Public

None

2. Changes to Agenda

None

3. Oral Communications from Task Force Members

Tim shared County's new newsletters and discussed new compostable diaper service

4. Approval of Minutes of September 6, 2018 (attached)

Bob corrected "pet food" to "animal feed" in organics discussion

Moved with correction: Bob, 2nd Jack, Approved 5-0

5. Waste characterization studies

Kasey and Bob discussed studies by SCS at Buena Vista and Dimeo Lane; Mike shared that Watsonville still in discussion with SCS; Reports to be shared next meeting

6. Plastic Waste Reduction – Tim

Tim discussed County's new ordinance for Hotels and Motels, shared additional plastic issues under consideration; discussion about microplastics - sources, remedies, health impacts

7. Organics Diversion - all

Bob shared that Santa Cruz is installing preprocessing eqpt. at Dimeo, may send more material to animal feed or to wastewater treatment

County discussed options, no decisions yet.

Bob shared that SC Community Composting (collection by bicycle) is closing down

8. Disaster Debris Disposal - Tim

Discussion of cleanup efforts after storms and other disasters, County's plans for a new policy, FEMA Disaster Debris Plans

9. Legislative Update – Tim

No news, discussion of potential bills in new session, effect of new administration

10. 2019 Meeting Calendar and work plan

March 7, Watsonville

June 6, County

September 5, City of Santa Cruz

December 5, Capitola

May amend later to add or move meeting to Scotts Valley.

11. Membership updates

Changes unknown until January.

12. 2019 Chair and Vice Chair

Larry and Bob will continue as chair and vice-chair.

13. Call for Agenda Items

Trash on Hwy 1

Untarped loads

Bans on ag plastic

Plastic clamshells, other plastic issues

Ongoing issues – organics, etc.

14. Adjournment



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Board of Supervisors: Third District

(831) 454-2200

Subject: Plastic Pollution Mitigation in Santa Cruz County

Meeting Date: February 26, 2019

Recommended Actions:

1. BOTTLED WATER

- A) Direct DPW staff to research a policy prohibiting the use of County funds to purchase bottled water for County-sponsored meetings and events, and;
- B) Direct DPW staff to research additional options for reducing the use of plastic water bottles in the unincorporated areas of the County.

2. PLASTIC FOOD SERVICE WARE

Direct DPW staff to explore prohibiting entities in the unincorporated area from providing customers with plastic to-go food service ware.

3. TOBACCO WASTE

Direct DPW staff to research the issue of plastic pollution due to tobacco waste with an emphasis on improperly discarded cigarette butts including researching the feasibility of an extended producer responsibility approach.

4. OTHER PLASTIC POLLUTION

Direct DPW staff to research additional plastic pollution issues which might be addressed through local measures.

- 5. Direct DPW staff to consult the Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment and the Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force and return to the Board with a proposed ordinance or ordinances in May 2019.

Executive Summary

Plastic pollution is a grave environmental issue, both on land and in the ocean. Santa Cruz County has adopted policies to limit certain single-use plastics from our environment and it is important to take additional steps in order to better protect our environment from plastic pollution. We propose that County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works (DPW) staff research a policy prohibiting the use of County funds to purchase bottled water for County-sponsored meetings and events and for additional measures to reduce the use of plastic water bottles in our community. In addition, in an effort to reduce the amount of plastic produced, distributed and discarded, we recommend that DPW explore prohibiting entities in the unincorporated area from providing customers with plastic to-go food service ware

and to return to the Board with a recommendation. Tobacco waste, especially plastic cigarette butts, are among our most pervasive litter problems. We propose that DPW explore measures for addressing the problem of tobacco waste and return to the Board with a recommendation. The environmental community has expressed concern about a range of additional plastic pollution problems. We recommend that DPW explore additional plastic pollution reduction measures and return to the Board with a recommendation. We further recommend that DPW consult the Santa Cruz County Commission on the Environment and the Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force and return to the Board with a proposed ordinance or ordinances to address plastic pollution.

Background and Analysis

Plastic pollution is a threat to the health of our planet. From poisoning and injuring marine life to disrupting human hormones, from littering our beaches and landscapes to clogging our waste streams and landfills, the exponential growth of plastics is an enormous problem.

The Santa Cruz County community has taken many steps to protect our environment. The County has enacted a series of laws to protect the environment and local tourism economy, including banning polystyrene to-go food containers, banning the sale of expanded polystyrene ("Styrofoam") plastics altogether, prohibiting disposable single-use carryout plastic bags, assuring that all cups and to-go cutlery are certified compostable or recyclable and prohibiting plastics stir-sticks and straws. Our Board recently took action to prohibit single-use bathroom products in the local hospitality industry by 2021. Many of these County actions have led to other local and even statewide changes, yet there is even more we can do to address plastic pollution.

50 billion plastic water bottles are used in the United States every year, and less than a quarter are recycled. With the turmoil in the recycling market, the number that are recycled is going down. Even though we pay a deposit on each bottle, there are few places to redeem them. As a first step toward reducing the prevalence of plastic water bottles in our community, the County should consider prohibiting the use of County funds to purchase bottled water for County-sponsored meetings and events.

In an effort to reduce the amount of plastic produced, distributed and discarded, we recommend that the Department of Public Works explore prohibiting entities in the unincorporated area from providing customers with plastic to-go food service ware. Santa Cruz County already requires all to-go food service ware provided to customers in the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County to be recyclable or compostable, but given the challenged state of the recycling market, it makes sense to attempt to reduce the use of recyclable plastic to-go food service ware.

Tobacco waste, especially plastic cigarette butts, are among our most pervasive litter problems, clogging storm drains, littering our parks and beaches, and endangering the health of our wildlife. County staff should explore measures for addressing the problem of tobacco waste and return to the Board with a recommendation.

Strategic Plan Element(s)

This item addresses the focus area of Sustainable Environment, working toward the goals of protecting Natural Resources (B), Local Conservation (C) and Climate Change (D).

Submitted by:

John Leopold, First District Supervisor, Ryan Coonerty, Third District Supervisor

Attachments:

Letter of Katherine O'Dea, Support for Plastic Pollution Mitigation

cc:

Congressmember Anna Eshoo
County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works
Assemblymember Mark Stone
Save Our Shores
Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force

Senator Bill Monning
Congressmember Jimmy Panetta
Commission on the Environment
Assemblymember Robert Rivas



Save Our Shores
345 Lake Avenue, Suite A
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February 20, 2019

Dear Supervisor Coonerty,

Thank you so much for sharing your proposed plastic pollution mitigation actions. With a mission to steward clean shores, healthy habitats and living waters to foster a thriving Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, addressing the global crisis of ocean plastic pollution is one of Save Our Shores' core strategies and a main focus of our advocacy agenda. So, I am delighted to say, on behalf of the tens of thousands of members of the Save Our Shores community, we are encouraged to see that you are thinking comprehensively about plastic pollution and are attempting to address some of the most problematic sources of it. And we want to endorse your efforts, as follows.

Bottled Water

Save Our Shores fully supports a policy that would prohibit using County funds to purchase bottled water for County meetings and events. But we are even more excited by your proposal to direct DPW staff to research additional options for reducing the use of plastic water bottles across the entire unincorporated areas of the County. We look forward to learning what the DPW staff will recommend to address this issue on a County wide basis and expect to support those recommendations, as well.

Tobacco Waste

Save Our Shores absolutely applauds your proposal to direct DPW staff to research the issue of plastic pollution from tobacco waste. Here too, we look forward to learning what the DPW staff will recommend and expect that we will be ready to support those actions.

Other Plastic Pollution

Save Our Shores truly admires your proposal to direct DPW staff to research additional plastic pollution issues which might be addressed through local measures. From our perspective this is the most progressive next step you can call for.

In closing, Save Our Shores is grateful for your leadership, Supervisor Coonerty, as well as that of all our County Supervisors. Together, you have made Santa Cruz County a beacon of environmental stewardship.

Sincerely,



Katherine O'Dea,
Executive Director