



**SF Environment**

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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco



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## Press Release

### **San Francisco Department of Environment Director Named “Recycling Champion of the Year” by Statewide Recycling Organization**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA – At an evening reception in Sacramento on August 11th, San Francisco Department of Environment Director Debbie Raphael received the “Recycling Champion of the Year” award from Californians Against Waste, a statewide non-profit environmental research and advocacy organization. Each year, Californians Against Waste recognizes members of the Legislature and other distinguished leaders for their efforts to advance waste reduction and recycling in California. This year, the group honored Assemblymember Richard Bloom of Santa Monica and Department of Environment Director Debbie Raphael.

“Under Debbie’s leadership, San Francisco has not only set ambitious waste reduction and climate targets, but has implemented concrete policies to achieve these goals,” said Mark Murray, Executive Director of Californians Against Waste. “Debbie has set a tremendous example for other communities by blazing a path forward locally on important issues like producer responsibility, ending the blight of plastic pollution, and recovering food waste to feed people and sequester carbon.”

In a letter announcing the award, Californians Against Waste highlighted Director Raphael’s “thoughtfulness, commitment and tenacity” as well as her “tireless advocacy” on waste reduction, producer responsibility, and recycling during her public service career with the City of San Francisco (1999-2011) as well as her time as the Director of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (2011-2014).

Debbie Raphael was appointed by Mayor Edwin M. Lee in 2014 as Director of the San Francisco Department of Environment. Under Debbie’s direction, the Department has continued to implement innovative policies and programs to help San Francisco reach its goal of Zero

Waste. In June, San Francisco approved the most comprehensive ban on polystyrene foam products in the country. Later this year, the Department will oversee the implementation of a producer-funded safe drug disposal program that will make it easier for residents to recycle their unwanted medications.

In addition to Director Raphael, the Department of Environment's Zero Waste programs and staff continue to be recognized for their achievements. Earlier this month, Zero Waste program staff attended the California Resource Recovery Association's (CRRA) 40th Annual Conference in Sacramento where Department of Environment staff member, Mary Williams, received the Outstanding Construction & Demolition (C&D) Award for her work to prevent construction and demolition debris from being sent to landfill. San Francisco's C&D Ordinance was enacted in 2006 and Mary has managed implementation of the program since its inception. After ten years at the Department, Mary retired at the end of June.

"We congratulate Mary on her retirement and thank her for the decade of service she has given our Department and City," said Debbie Raphael, Director of the Department of Environment. "The next time you see a new building going up in San Francisco, we should all think of and thank Mary. Because of her work, the construction debris from that building or site is not going to landfill. It's being recycled instead."

"Mary has been such an important part of the success of San Francisco's C&D ordinance," said Jack Macy, Senior Zero Waste Coordinator at the Department of Environment. "In her time, Mary has worked to prevent over 400,000 tons of construction and demolition debris from being sent to the landfill. This is a significant contribution to our City's Zero Waste goals and we are happy that her hard work is being acknowledged by CRRA this year."

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For more information about the Department of Environment's Zero Waste programs, visit: [www.sfenvironment.org/zerowaste](http://www.sfenvironment.org/zerowaste)

**Pictures available on next page or can be provided electronically.**



*Debbie Raphael, second from left, and Assemblymember Richard Bloom, second from right, accept their respective awards from Californians Against Waste staff on September 11<sup>th</sup>.*



*Mary Williams, center, accepts the Outstanding Construction & Demolition (C&D) Award from the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) at their 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Awards Ceremony on August 9<sup>th</sup>.*