



**SF Environment**

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A Department of the City and County of San Francisco

London N. Breed  
Mayor

Deborah O. Raphael  
Director

**City and County of San Francisco  
Commission on the Environment  
Policy Committee\***

**MEETING MINUTES DRAFT**

**Monday, May 13, 2019, 5:00 p.m.  
City Hall, Room 421  
One Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Jr. Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Commissioners Johanna Wald (Chair), Elmy Bermejo and Eddie Ahn.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

Public comment will be taken before the Committee takes action on any item.

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call.**

Deborah Raphael, Director, welcome new committee member Mike Sullivan.

Present: Commissioners Ahn, Chu and Wald.

**2. Approval of minutes of the April 10, 2019 Commission on the Environment Policy Committee meeting.** (Explanatory Document: April 10, 2019 Draft Minutes) (Discussion and Action)

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald, second by Commissioner Sullivan, the minutes were approved without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Chu and Wald. Noes: None. Absent: None.)

There was no public comment.

**3. General Public Comment.** Members of the public may address the Committee on matters that are within the Committee's jurisdiction and are not on today's agenda.

There was no public comment.

**4. Review and vote on whether to recommend that the full Commission support Resolution File No. 2019-02-COE regarding a checkout bag charge and recyclable or compostable pre-checkout bags.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speaker: Juan Carlos Cancino, Legislative Aide, Office of Supervisor Vallie Brown (Explanatory Document: Resolution File No. 2019-02-COE) (Discussion and Action)

Deborah Raphael, Director, introduced the item.

Juan Carlos Cancino, Legislative Aide, Office of Supervisor Vallie Brown discussed Supervisor Brown's history on the issue, collaboration with the Department, collaboration with the Small Business Commission, communication with partners and advocates, a renewable bags campaign and next steps.

Commissioner Wald asked about developing a baseline for new waste reduction strategies and goals, including a definition of compostable in the resolution and whether the ordinance expands the explanation of compostable. Commissioner Wald requested staff to make amendments to the resolution to clarify these issues.

Commissioner Sullivan asked who keeps the money that is collected from the bag charge, if there is data on how charges change behavior, if there are any other cities that have done the precheck out bag compostable bag policy and what the expectation is for people bringing their own produce bags.

Commissioner Ahn asked about the time period for the bag giveaway.

Commissioner Wald asked about the Department's history of giving away reusable bags.

Commissioner Ahn asked for updates on which communities have been outreached to.

Public Comment:

Marnie Persico asked if the bag charge will be implemented in farmers markets.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Sullivan, and a second by Commissioner Wald, the Policy Committee recommend that the full Commission support Resolution File No. 2019-02-COE without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Chu and Wald. Noes: None. Absent: None.)

- 5. Review and vote on whether to recommend that the full Commission support the Draft 2018 Annual Buy Green Report.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speaker: Jessian Choy, City Toxics Reduction Analyst (Explanatory Document: Draft 2018 Annual Buy Green Report) (Discussion and Action)

Deborah Raphael, Director, introduced the item.

Dr. Chris Geiger, Senior Environmental Specialist, discussed the Draft 2018 Annual Buy Green Report including the report team, why buy green, Green Purchasing Ordinance, ordinance requirements, green teams, what we can do, 2018 activities, work on fluorinated chemicals, work on green carpeting, work on furniture, green cleaning training modules, green cleaning training trainers, food service ware, performance metrics, current activities and recognized the purchasing team at Public Works.

Commissioner Wald asked about raising the visibility about recognition of other departments and ways to expand information about the work of green purchasing beyond the City family.

Commissioner Bermejo asked about outreach to small businesses.

Commissioner Wald asked about a communication strategy for the rollout of new policies on food service ware.

There was no public comment.

Upon a motion by Commissioner Wald, and a second by Commissioner Sullivan, the Policy Committee recommend that the full Commission support the Draft 2018 Annual Buy Green Report without objection. (Ayes: Commissioners Ahn, Chu and Wald. Noes: None. Absent: None.)

6. **Presentation on the implementation of new zero waste programming and services including the Better at the Bin initiative.** Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speakers: Paul Giusti, Government Affairs, Recology (Discussion)

Deborah Raphael, Director, introduced the item.

Paul Giusti, Government Affairs, Recology, discussed the implementation of new zero waste programming, including changes in the Chinese market for recyclables, the documentary Plastic China, declined values for baled recyclables, new zero waste systems, optical sorters, Recology's West Wing, the new bin rollout, school education, advocating for the environment, [betteratthebin.com](http://betteratthebin.com) and reducing consumption.

Commissioner Wald asked if there are any markets other than China.

Commissioner Sullivan asked about doing an article in the Chronicle about the top ten list of things people shouldn't do and what problems are created by people defaulting to placing things in the blue bin when they are unsure where they should go.

Commissioner Ahn asked about recycling broken glass.

Director Raphael asked if materials can still go to China if they are of high quality and how to jumpstart domestic recycling.

Commissioner asked if there are any jurisdictions that are trying to reduce the number of types of plastics being produced.

Commissioner Wald asked about what to do with textiles and expanding buy local to lower the use of cardboard.

Public Comment:

Unidentified speaker asked about developing incentives for reducing black bin usage.

7. **Director's Update.** Deborah Raphael, Director (Discussion)

Deborah Raphael, Director, discussed Earth Month, the Mayor's Earth Day reception, the City's Sol Smart Gold recognition, a CalRecycle grant, the Artist in Residence reception at Recology and the Department's presence at Carnival.

There was no public comment.

8. **New Business/Future Agenda Items.** Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer (Discussion and Possible Action)

Charles Sheehan, Chief Policy and Public Affairs Officer, discussed upcoming agenda items including biodiversity, urban forestry, electrification and a look at Chapter 9 of the Environmental Code.

There was no public comment.

## 9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

**The next meeting of the Commission on the Environment Policy Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 10, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall, Room 421.**

\*\* Copies of explanatory documents are available at (1) the Commission's office, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, California, 94103 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Photo identification is required for entry to the building. (2) on the Commission's website <http://www.sfenvironment.org/commission>; (3) upon request to the Commission Affairs Manager, at telephone number 415-355-3709, or via e-mail at [Anthony.E.Valdez@sfgov.org](mailto:Anthony.E.Valdez@sfgov.org). If any materials related to an item on this agenda have been distributed to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet, those materials are available for public inspection at the Department of the Environment, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94103 during normal office hours or will be made available on the Commission's website <http://www.sfenvironment.org/commission> as attachments to the agenda or meeting minutes.

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