



# City of Berkeley ZERO WASTE COMMISSION Regular Meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.  
City of Berkeley Corporation Yard (Ratcliff Building, Willow Room)  
1326 Allston Way, Berkeley, CA, 94702

## MEETING AGENDA

### PRELIMINARY MATTERS:

- 5:30 pm 1. Call to Order by Chair and Roll Call by Secretary
- **Steven Sherman**, appointed by CM Rashi Kesarwani, District 1
  - **Claire Wilson**, appointed by CM Shoshana O'Keefe, District 5
  - **VACANT**, appointed by Mayor Adena Ishii
  - **Layla Dargahi (Vice Chair)**, appointed by CM Terry Taplin, District 2
  - **Dennis Uyat**, appointed by CM Ben Bartlett, District 3
  - **Philip Monrad**, appointed by CM Igor Tregub, District 4
  - **Sandra Curtis**, appointed by CM Brent Blackaby, District 6
  - **Swasti Johri**, appointed by CM Cecilia Lunaparra, District 7
  - **Barun Singh**, appointed by CM Mark Humbert, District 8
- 5:35 pm 2. Approve Meeting Agenda and Order of Agenda Items
- 5:40 pm 3. Approve Draft Action Minutes:
- January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting\*
- 5:45 pm 4. Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda  
*Speakers are allotted up to two minutes. Speakers may be allotted less time at the discretion of the Chair.*
- 5:55 pm 5. Commissioner Announcements  
*Commissioners may make general announcements; no action will be taken.*
- 6:00 pm 6. Staff Updates

### DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

*Members of the public may provide comments at the end of each discussion item and prior to the vote of the Commission on any action items. Speakers are allotted up to 2 minutes.*

- 6:15 pm 1. Commissioner Elections for Chair and Vice Chair
- 6:30 pm 2. Review the initiatives in the Zero Waste Strategic Plan
- 6:45 pm 3. Steven Sherman- Ocean Plastics Presentation

Internal

7:00 pm 4. Claire Wilson- discussion and update on CARB laws

7:10 pm 5. Subcommittee Reports Updates

7:20 pm 6. Discuss Future Agenda Items

7:30 pm 7. Adjournment

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

*Information items may be moved to discussion but no action will be taken*

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

*Communications from the public are included as links or attachments in the agenda packet.*

**\*Indicates material included in the agenda packet**

**\*\* Indicates material to be available at the meeting**



**ADA Disclaimer:** This meeting is being held in a wheelchair-accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the Disability Services Specialist at 981-6418 (V) or 981-6347 (TDD) at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.

**SB 343 Disclaimer:**

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at the Public Works Department located at the address below.

**Communications Disclaimer:**

Communications to Berkeley boards, commissions or committees are public record and will become part of the City's electronic records, which are accessible through the City's website. Please note: e-mail addresses, names, addresses, and other contact information are not required, but if included in any communication to a City board, commission or committee, will become part of the public record. If you do not want your e-mail address or any other contact information to be made public, you may deliver communications via U.S. Postal Service or in person to the secretary of the relevant board, commission or committee. If you do not want your contact information included in the public record, please do not include that information in your communication. Please contact the secretary to the relevant board, commission or committee for further information.

**Commission Secretary:**

Julia A. Heath, Recycling Program Manager,  
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510-981-6357

[jheath@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:jheath@berkeleyca.gov)

## MINUTES

The meeting was convened at 5:35 p.m. with Steven Sherman presiding as temporary Chair.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Sandra Curtis, Swasti Johri, Philip Monrad, Swasti Johri, Steven Sherman, Claire Wilson

LOA: Dennis Uyat, Layla Dargahi, Barun Singh

Absent:

STAFF PRESENT: Julia A. Heath, Johnny de Lara

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: 3

PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): 3

### ACTION MINUTES:

- **Approval of the January 21, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda**  
Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Curtis) to approve the January 21, 2026 meeting agenda.  
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Dennis Uyat, Layla Dargahi, Barun Singh
- **Approval of the November 20, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Johri) to approve the November 20, 2025 meeting minutes.  
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Dennis Uyat, Layla Dargahi, Barun Singh
- **Public Comment**  
1 public comment. No Action Taken.
- **Commissioner Announcements**  
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
- **Staff Updates**  
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
- **Discuss Upcoming Commissioner Elections Happening at the February Commission Meeting**  
Discussion only. No Action Taken.  
**Public Comment:** 0
- **Discuss potential memo regarding business license to waste compliance**  
Discussion only. No Action Taken.  
**Public Comment:** 0
- **Discuss how to move quicker and more efficiently in our goals as a commission**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

**Public Comment: 0**

- Discuss Transfer Station rebuild talking points

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

**Public Comment: 1**

- **Subcommittee Updates**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

**Public Comment: 1**

- **Discuss Future Agenda Items**

**Public Comment: 0**

- Vote on Chair and Co-Chair
- Review the initiatives in the Strategic Plan
- Steven Sherman/ Sandy Curtis- Ocean Plastics Presentations (Methodology and Results)
- Discuss CARB laws (city fleets and transition to EVs for garbage trucks)

- **Adjournment at 7:30 p.m.**

M/S/C (Wilson/Curtis) to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Sandra Curtis

The next regular meeting of the Zero Waste Commission will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in person at City of Berkeley Corporation Yard (Ratcliff Building, Willow Room) 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Respectfully Submitted

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Julia A. Heath, Secretary



# **PARADISE PICKED: CHARACTERIZING COASTAL PLASTICS IN INDONESIA**

## **LOCAL POLICIES: WHAT CAN WE DO?**

**Steven Sherman**

Steven Sherman Consulting

Berkeley, California

Telephone: 510-773-2776

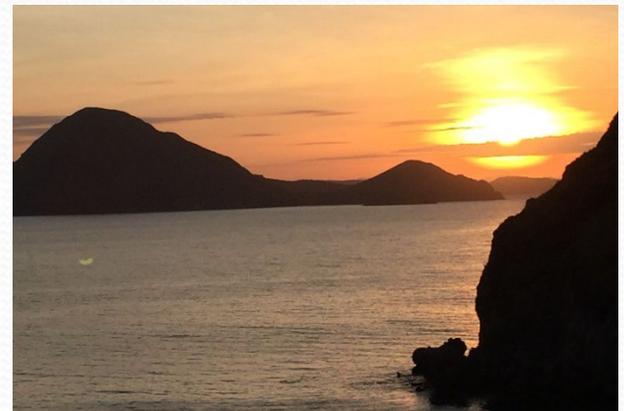
Email: [stevenericsherman@gmail.com](mailto:stevenericsherman@gmail.com)

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/steven-sherman-5016698>

# Entering the “Plasti-scene” Era



# Citizen Science Adventure



# Indonesia: Fast Facts

- Population: 260 million
- Ethnic groups: > 300
- Islands: 18,000
- Coast: world's second longest
- Lizards: world's largest
- Major exports: fuels, palm oil, electronics, rubber, vehicles, machinery, gems, shoes, textiles, wood
- Active geology: volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis



# Citizen Science Adventure

SCHEDULE		August 7 <sup>th</sup> Padar/Rinca
05:30	- Sunrise Hike @ Padar	
08:00	- Depart from Padar	
12:00	- Lunch	Trash Analysis
13:00	- Mangrove/Beach Cleanup	
15:00	- Hike Rinca with Komodos (2 hour hike)	
19:00	- Dinner on top deck	Trash Analysis
20:00	- Evening Presentations (Haley/Marcus/Rachel)	
21:00	- Dance Party with DJ Charles	



# Types of Waste Characterizations in Indonesia



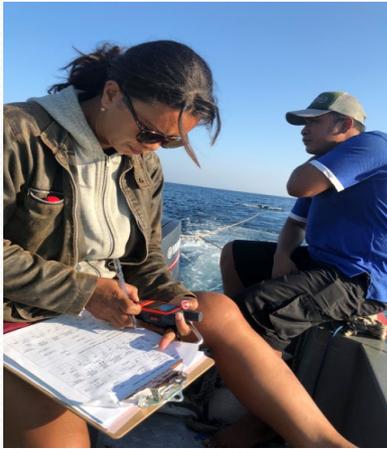
# Manta Trawls

TRAWL SAMPLE IDENTIFICATION CHART

START DATA	Trawl#	TIME start	Latitude (N) start		Longitude (W) start		
STOP DATA	Date	TIME end	Latitude (N) end		Longitude (W) end		
SEA and BOAT CONDITIONS	Start Sea State / End Sea State	Start Speed / End Speed (knots)	Start Direction/ End Direction (ex: NW)	Average Boat Speed (knots)	Average Wind Direction (ex: NW)	Average Wind Speed (knots)	Flowmeter (optional)
							Start
							Stop



# Manta Trawls



# Beach Micro-Plastics

- Area: 1 square meter
- Micro = < 5 mm



## Traditional Waste Characterization / Beach Clean-up Style



## Traditional Waste Characterization / Beach Clean-up Style

DATE	BEACH	TOTAL # PIECES ANALYZED	% FOOD PACKAGING	PERSONAL CARE	HOUSEHOLD	CIGARETTES	FLIP FLOPS	ROPE PIECES
7/25/18	BANTA ISLAND	92	70%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
7/25/18	SANGEANG ISLAND (BLACK SAND / BUBBLES)	273	36%	4.50%	9.50%	NA	18%	32%
8/1/18	GILLI ISLANDS	181	62%	2%	2%	34%	NA	NA
8/5/18	BANTA ISLAND	100	84%	7%	9%	NA	NA	NA

## Traditional Waste Characterization / Beach Clean-up Style

### BEACH SURVEYS

225 Kg of trash removed

8738 items collected

1777	misc. foam
1048	misc. fragment
939	water cups
816	shoes
799	water bottles
601	other plastic bottles
396	bottle cap
383	food wrappers
278	straws
256	rope

# MANGROVE SURVEYS

39 Kg of trash removed

131 items collected

68	rope
15	misc. fragment
13	other plastic bags
11	rice bags
5	tarps
4	water bottles
4	textiles
4	food wrappers
2	nets



# Brand Audit

Break Free From Plastic Brand Audit Form							
Organization:			Date of Audit:				
Name of Recorders:			Time of Audit (start):				
Name of Sorters:			Time of Audit (end):				
Total Volume (fill up only if waste audit was conducted):			Total Weight (fill up only if waste audit was conducted):				
Brand Name	Manufacturer	Local / International	Type of product	Type of packaging	Tally (indicate with tally marks)	Total number of pieces	
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							

TYPE OF PRODUCTS	
Household Products (HP)	detergents, cleansers, bleach, cleaning tools, cigarette butts, textiles, etc
Food Packaging (FP)	biscuits, cookies, junk food, candies, sweets, sauces, ready-to-eat meals, etc
Personal Care (PC)	soap, shampoo, toothpaste, gel, diapers, sanitary pads, medically-related products, etc

TYPE OF PACKAGING			
PS	polystyrene	SL	single layer
HP	hard plastics	ML	multi-layer, composites, laminates
PET	polyethylene	F	foil
O	others	ES	expanded polystyrene



An analysis and call-to-action to phase out the most polluting plastic products used in the United States

# 18th Expedition Highlights

sailed over  
**700**  
nautical miles  
in **16** days

visited **10** of  
Indonesia's  
approx. **17,500**  
islands

**1** beach  
analysis showed  
plastic pollution  
levels of over  
**350 pieces of  
plastic/sq. m**  
of sand

**42**  
microplastic  
samples in  
surface waters  
using the  
manta trawl

**16** beach  
cleanups,  
**3** mangrove  
cleanups

removed over  
**900** lbs of  
plastic trash

**1** manta trawl had  
microplastic concentrations  
of over **120,000**  
**pieces/km<sup>2</sup> of surface  
sea water**



# Plastic Litter: Sectors Affected

- Tourism
- Fishing
- Marine life
- Birds
- Human health





# Connecting the Dots

“We enjoyed the lizard and volcano pictures, Steve, but what can we do here and now?”

--Anonymous Past President,  
Gold Rush Chapter, SWANA



# WHAT SHOULD WE PRIORITIZE?

## CALIFORNIA COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

- Cigarette butts #1
- Food and beverage packaging = 7 out of 10
- 2018, bags no longer in top 10- ban/fee works!
- Prioritize butts, caps, foodware
- Microfibers\*

<u>Top Ten 1988-2017</u>	<u>Count</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Cigarettes/Cigarette Filters	7,535,411	36.96%
Food Wrappers/Containers	2,193,018	10.76%
Caps Lids	1,861,923	9.13%
Bags (plastic and paper)	1,572,241	7.71%
Cups, Plates, Forks, Knives, Spoons	1,113,129	5.46%
Straws, Stirrers	863,481	4.24%
Beverage Bottles (glass)	679,709	3.33%
Beverage Bottles (plastic)	554,825	2.72%
Beverage Cans	496,117	2.43%
Construction Materials	367,729	1.80%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,237,583</b>	<b>84.55%</b>



# BEST SOLUTIONS



## FRAMEWORK FOR MARINE LITTER

- 1. Source Reduction/ Prevention**
  - Product bans
  - Minimize single-use
  - Reuse or
- 2. Control- recycle, compost, garbage management**
- 3. Litter cleanup & trash capture**



# STATE ACTION

## REGULATION

- TRASH CLEANUP- zero trash discharge to storm water by 2022

## PLASTICS LEGISLATION ENACTED TO DATE:

- PLASTIC BAGS: SB 270 (Padilla)- 2014
- MICROBEADS -AB 888 (Bloom)- 2015
- STRAWS- AB 1884 - (Calderon)-2018
- FOAM-(state facilities) SB 1335 (Allen)- 2018





# STATE SOLUTIONS STILL NEEDED

- Cigarette filters
- Food and beverage (wraps, containers, cups, plates, utensils, bottles)
- Caps and Lids
- Microfibers



## LOCAL POLICIES ENACTED IN CALIFORNIA



- 150+ plastic bag ordinances
- 120+ polystyrene ordinances
- 20+ plastic straw bans, some include “ask first” and some add utensils
- 2 bans on plastic water bottles in government facilities
- 2 litter fees:
  - Oakland convenience stores
  - San Francisco cigarettes



# Berkeley Single-Use Foodware Ordinance 2019

- On-site dining: Reusables required
- Take-out single-use cups: 25 cent fee
- Take-out foodware:
  - Fluorinated chemicals: Banned
  - BFI-Certified Compostable: Required



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## CASE STUDY- University of San Francisco

- Replaced disposable cups with reusable
- Replaced wrapped straws
- Replaced disposable salad bowls
- Replaced disposable cutlery
- Removed baskets of napkins at every table

# REDUCING DISPOSABLE- GOOD FOR BUSINESS





# USF Case Study: Results

- Money Saved: \$160,000
- Waste Reduced: 13 tons
- Disposables Eliminated: 2.6 million
- Carbon Eliminated: 10 metric tons



# Steven Sherman Consulting

*Managing Resources, Delivering Results*

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