



City of Berkeley ZERO WASTE COMMISSION Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 21, 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:
- November 20, 2025 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. Discuss upcoming commissioner elections happening at the February commission meeting
- 6:30 pm 2. Discuss potential memo regarding business license to waste compliance
- 6:45 pm 3. Discuss how to move quicker and more efficiently in our goals as a commission

7:00 pm 3. Subcommittee Updates Internal

7:15pm 4. Discuss Future Agenda Items

7:30 pm 5. Adjournment

INFORMATION ITEMS:

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

1. Transfer Station Rebuild Talking Points (Final/Adopted Version)

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

**Finalized comments from Steve Sherman on the Berkeley Transfer Station.

*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,
Zero Waste Division, 1201 Second St. Berkeley, CA 94710
510-981-6357

jheath@berkeleyca.gov

MINUTES

The meeting was convened at 5:30p.m. with Layla Dargahi presiding as co-chair.

ROLL CALL

Present: Dennis Uyat, Philip Monrad, Barun Singh, Sandra Curtis, Swasti Johri, Steven Sherman, Layla Dargahi, Claire Wilson

LOA:

Absent:

STAFF PRESENT: Leticia Jauregui

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: 2

PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): 2

ACTION MINUTES:

- **Approval of the November 20, 2025**
Action Taken: M/S/C (Uyat/Monrad) to approve the November 20, 2025 meeting agenda.
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None
- **Approval of the September 18, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes**
Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Singh) to approve the September 18, 2025 meeting minutes.
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None
- **Public Comment**
2 public comment. No Action Taken.
- **Commissioner Announcements**
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
- **Staff Updates**
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
Public Comment: 0
- **Leadership Election**
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
Public Comment: 0
- **Voting on moving Space Allocation Referral to Council**
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
Public Comment: 0

- **Vote on 2026 Zero Waste Commission Schedule**
Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Singh) to vote on 2026 Zero Waste Commission schedule.
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None
- **Subcommittee Reports Updates (C&D Report, Special Events Report)**
Discussion only. No Action Taken.
Public Comment: 0
- **Discuss Future Agenda Items**
Public Comment: 0
 - January city manager giving presentation on proper format for memos and ordinance
 - Discussing a potential memo regarding business license to waste compliance
 - Discuss how to move quicker and more efficiently in our goals as a commission
 - “Lease Language Subcommittee” Updates
- **Adjournment at 7:30 p.m.**
M/S/C (Uyat/Singh) to adjourn the meeting.
Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None

The next regular meeting of the Zero Waste Commission will be held on Thursday, January 21, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in person at City of Berkeley Corporation Yard (Ratcliff Building, Willow Room) 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Respectfully Submitted

Leticia Jauregui, Zero Waste Division Manager

Berkeley Transfer Station and Recycling Center

What is It?

Berkeley's publicly-owned Transfer Station and Recycling Center provides our residents and businesses with convenient, reliable, and affordable access to recycling, composting, and proper disposal. This key green infrastructure site prepares many types of discarded products and packaging for reuse or shipment to appropriate processing facilities.

Need for Updating

The transfer station was built more than 30 years ago by the Berkeley Public Works Department, first to handle Berkeley's trash, and then to handle curbside recyclables (e.g., glass/metal/plastic containers; newspaper; cardboard; etc.), and then yard trimmings and food scraps for composting, construction and demolition materials for recycling, plus other items. The facility needs updating to maintain a safe and efficient facility for the public and its workers, and to meet current and future needs.

The Berkeley Transfer Station/Recycling Center is a Tremendous Public Asset

1. Climate Change Response: The facility is the City's single most vital property for making meaningful differences in resource consumption and reduction in greenhouse gas generation.
2. Centerpiece of Local Environmental Linkages: Hub for addressing important local and global issues, including climate change, local economic development, sustainability and community resiliency.
3. Waste Reduction and Recycling (Resource Conservation): Accepts reusable, recyclable and compostable materials.
4. Local Revenue and Cost Savings: No other City facility generates as much revenue as the transfer station. The facility generates revenue for the City from facility usage fees ("gate or tip fees") and from selling recyclables.. Through in-house operations, the City avoids paying the profit margin any private company would charge to perform the same functions, and keeps those funds for use within our community instead of flowing to distant corporate shareholders.
5. City Jobs: The facility employs approximately 100 full-time unionized City workers.
6. Public Control: Public control of the transfer station means public control over decision-making regarding this basic infrastructure. Communities that cede this control risk service cutbacks and labor disruptions that clash with City values, in addition to risking possibly extreme cost increases that near-monopolistic waste management industry players can impose over time.
7. Local Non-Profits: The Community Conservation Corps (CCC) operates the City's buy-back and recycling center. It employs 40 full-time equivalent workers, most of whom are union members. The Ecology Center, under City contract, collects and delivers recyclables from Berkeley residents to the transfer station; this work employs approximately 20 people.
8. Local Environmental Businesses: The City contracts with a local reuse business to recover valuable products (e.g., furniture, windows, and lumber) that otherwise would be landfilled.
9. Environmental Education: Once re-built, the facility plans to provide environmental education tours as a regular feature of its services. Everyone, especially school children, should learn about where things come from and where they go after use, and how our actions matter.
10. Support for Local Economy: The facility is a nearby, reliable, and reasonably priced destination for self-haulers, especially local landscapers and building contractors. Less driving time and lower gate rates translate into cost savings that boost the local economy.