

MINUTES

The meeting was convened at 5:32 with Steven Sherman presiding as Chair.

ROLL CALL

Present: Philip Monrad, Steven Sherman, Claire Wilson, Sandra Curtis, Dennis Uyat

LOA:

Absent: Barun Singh, Layla Dargahi

STAFF PRESENT: Julia A. Heath, Johnny de Lara

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: 4

PUBLIC COMMENTS (on non-agenda items): 2

ACTION MINUTES:

- **Approval of the March 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda**

Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Monrad) to approve the February 18, 2026 meeting agenda.

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Barun Singh, Layla Dargahi

- Defer CARB Laws Presentation to next meeting

- **Approval of the February, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes**

Action Taken: M/S/C (Sherman/Monrad) to approve the January 21, 2026 meeting minutes.

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Barun Singh, Layla Dargahi

- **Public Comment**

2 public comments. No Action Taken.

- The Ecology Center will host a members event for Earth Day on April 22, focusing on single-use plastics and recycling policies.
- Introducing Zero Waste Ambassador Lily.

- **Commissioner Announcements**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Include 1-3 sentence summaries for each agenda item in the minutes.

- **Staff Updates**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- BFN took on BFP, which expanded their capacity.
- The Public Works Director has resigned, his last day is Friday 3/27. Waheed Amiri, the deputy who oversaw transportation, is now acting Public Works Director, covering multiple positions.
 - i. The positions for director and deputy director have been posted, and recruitment is expected to be faster than for other staff positions.

- ii. The lack of leadership affects the ability to advocate for staff resources and guidance.

- **Continue Discussion of Transfer Station Rebuild and other Zero Waste Strategic Plan Initiatives**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- A need to relate the transfer station directly and explicitly to climate change and environment to gain more care from the public.
- A bond may still be needed for the transfer station rebuild, even with a rate increase.
- Staff to provide more budget numbers from FY 24 to gain a better understanding of where funds are going when making the case for a transfer station rebuild.

Public Comment: 1

- Nevada County Waste Management has upgraded their transfer station.

- **Reflect on previous work plan; Vote to refine Zero Waste Commission Work Plan for upcoming fiscal year, including implementation through advocacy and marketing**

Action Taken: M/S/C (Monrad/Curtis) to adopt the refined Zero Waste Commission Work Plan goals for upcoming fiscal year and set dates for the editing and completion of the rest of the plan.

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Barun Singh, Layla Dargahi

- Commissioners should review the plan initiatives and identify what they are willing to work on. Focus on the short-term initiatives (1-3 years).
- Claire to have a draft and send it to staff by 3/25.
- Staff circulate draft and other commissioners submit edits by 4/7.
- Edited work plan sent out by staff before next meeting.
- Commission to vote on its final adoption in next meeting.

Public Comment: 1

- Suggestion that the commission do more community engagement and education work to make themselves more visible.

- **Discuss: If City plans to issue an RFP for recycling collection and hauling services, the Commission requests that it be tasked with reviewing and commenting on the draft RFP, to ensure alignment with the City's zero waste policy goals and decisions.**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- Will vote on whether the commission should have an active role in reviewing/commenting on the draft RFP in the next meeting.
- The City has contracts with two nonprofits, the Ecology Center and CCC, for recycling Services: The Ecology Center collects recyclables from residents in buildings with nine units or fewer. The CCC provides processing services on part of the transfer station land.
- The contracts are scheduled to end or be extended on June 30th, but the City has offered a two-year extension instead of a five-year extension to allow time to develop an RFP.

Public Comment: 2

- The city council considers who they are working with, such as community-based nonprofits, when reviewing contracts.
- There is no expected gap in recycling service coverage.

- The existing agreements will likely continue with some adjustments for two more years.

- **Subcommittee Updates**

Discussion only. No Action Taken.

- A member of the public might join the Lease Language Subcommittee
- Potential to develop new subcommittees
- Johnny and Swasti tried to move referrals forward but were asked to submit them next month.
- The zero waste events referral will be moved forward next month as well.

Public Comment: 0

- **Discuss Future Agenda Items**

- Claire Wilson – Discussion and update on CARB Laws
- Commission to review the Executive Summary of the Zero Waste Strategic Plan initiatives and vote on which initiatives to focus on
- Commission to vote on whether to request the power to review the draft RFP from City Council
- Commission to vote on the adoption of the finalized Zero Waste Commission Work Plan for the upcoming fiscal year

Public Comment: 0

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

M/S/C (Sherman/Monrad) to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: Unanimous; Abstain: None; Absent: Barun Singh, Layla Dargahi

The next regular meeting of the Zero Waste Commission will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in person at City of Berkeley Corporation Yard (Ratcliff Building, Willow Room) 1326 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Respectfully Submitted

Julia A. Heath, Secretary