



JANUARY 2012 CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE & BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING:

- **Mayor Chuck Page of Saratoga** was appointed to the Cal ID Remote Access Network (RAN) Board for an ongoing term.
- **Council Member Gilbert Wong of Cupertino** was appointed to the SCC Recycling Waste & Reduction Commission as the North County Cities Representative to fulfill an ongoing term expiring in April 2016.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING:

- **Jamie McLeod, Chair of the Recycling Waste and Reduction Commission (RWRC)**, presented the RWRC's recommendations on Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) for the County Board and Cities/Town Councils to adopt at one of the following levels, as appropriate for their jurisdiction:
 1. Begin outreach and education and adopt a policy prohibiting EPS food and beverage containers in all County/City cafeterias, facilities and events and prohibiting the use of EPS by anyone or any group utilizing County/City facilities/parks (adopt by January 1, 2012).
 2. Adopt an ordinance banning EPS food and beverage containers at all food vendors County/Citywide and/or consider adopting an ordinance requiring that all food vendors within the jurisdiction use only containers that are accepted and processed through the City's/County's landfill diversion program with the understanding that EPS will not be collected for recycling (adopt by July 1, 2012).
 3. Strongly consider adopting long term plan (in accordance with the jurisdiction's franchise agreements) requiring all food vendors within jurisdiction use only containers accepted and processed through City's/County's landfill diversion program with the understanding that EPS will not be collected for recycling (adopt by January 1, 2013).

Cities are encouraged to take a gradual approach when considering adoption of the recommendations; jurisdictions should at least consider #1 & #2 of the recommendations, and consider #3 for the long term.

- **Michael Westerfield of Dart Container Corporation** presented on the regulation of EPS and on how shifting the composition of litter from one

material to another does not result in a reduction in litter. Main points of the presentation included:

- a. Foam works better; it insulates and doesn't sweat like other products such as paper and plastic
- b. Foam has a better Life Cycle Inventory (LCI)
- c. Foam costs less
- d. Curbside foam recycling is growing
- e. There will be no Zero Waste without foam recycling; 2/3 of foam use is not used for food storage, e.g. packaging of electronics
- f. Foam provides jobs in California
- g. Banning foam will not stop litter
- h. Foam makes-up a small portion of food packaging

Dart Corporation recognizes the difficulty of recycling foam and is willing to partner with cities and provide collection service. The presentation is available on our website at http://www.citiesassociation.org/presentations-and-actions_44_4221248677.pdf.

- **Allison Chan and Patrick Band of Save the Bay**, presented on the impact of EPS on Santa Clara County waterways and the Bay. Allison reported that Expanded polystyrene food service containers present a major threat to creeks and waterways across the region, as well as a significant challenge to local waste management efforts. Due to their light weight and propensity to break down into pieces, these materials are easily dispersed into the natural environment, where they are often mistaken for food and ingested by aquatic and avian wildlife. EPS foam comprises 15% of aquatic litter, leading to clogged storm drains and increased staff costs for cleanup and disposal. Further, because recycling is only possible when EPS food ware has been thoroughly cleaned, no appreciable post-consumer market exists for these containers. Save The Bay strongly supports the RWRC recommendations, and initial public discussion by local elected officials and city staff in the coming months. With the Regional Water Board's recent support and adoption of the recommendations, it is willing to provide credits toward mandatory trash load reductions to municipalities that pass EPS bans, this issue is a timely opportunity for local and regional leadership. And as noted by the RWRC, consistent policy across jurisdictions both eases the burden on local businesses and helps the public to understand the action being taken. Over fifty cities in California have already adopted the ban; 20 of them are in the Bay Area. San Mateo County has adopted the ban on EPS; several cities in SMC have already adopted the ban and/or considering adoption of the ban. The Cities Association was requested to consider support of the RWRC's policy recommendations on EPS. The presentation is available on our website at http://www.citiesassociation.org/presentations-and-actions_41_1140849836.pdf.
- After discussion and the recognition that it's important for cities to act regionally on this issue, The Cities Association Board of Directors voted to endorse the RWRC policy recommendations on EPS (with an amendment to revise the timeline of adoption) and forward a request to all 15 cities to consider adoption. The Board voted in support of the motion 10 to 0 with one abstention.
- Per an itemized discussion on Priorities for 2012, the Board unanimously voted to focus on 3 of 10 proposed priority items for 2012:

1. Regional Economic Development
2. Supporting Innovative Schools
3. Sustainable Communities Strategy & Transportation

Champions to lead the priorities will be identified and finalized at the next February 9th Board Meeting.

- **City Managers' Report:** Debra Figone, San Jose City Manager, reported that the SCCMA also finalized a work plan for 2012 to include: Next Generation Training, Sustainable Communities Strategy, Regional Development Agencies, Public Safety Interoperability, Affordable Housing, and Regional Housing Needs Allocation.
- **Legislation Report:** Betsy Shotwell of San Jose reported that this is the 2nd year of the 2-year session. The governor's budget proposal includes a \$4.1 billion deficit for the current 2011-12 FY and a \$5.1 billion deficit for the 2012-13 FY. Cuts to health and human services are expected. The governor has proposed increases in tax on the wealthy, increase in sales tax, but guarantees funding for education and public safety. The legislative deadline to introduce new bills is at the end of January. The Legislature may extend the dissolution of RDA's from February to April; this will require a 2/3 vote. Currently, there are 78 ballot measures addressing pension reform, personal income, MMD's, etc.,
- **CSC Report:** Laura Macias of Mountain View presented an overview of the Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA), its inception with the SCCMA, its focus on critical communications connectivity of Santa Clara County, and recent activities, which included issue of Stage 1 RFP for the provision of a 700 MHz APCO Project 25 (P25) radio communication system to support mission critical communications within the County. The system could potentially be part of a greater 10+ county regional implementation. The SVRIA focuses on maintaining and updating the communication systems within Santa Clara County; as opposed to Bay RICS, which focuses on the 9-bay area counties and larger cities, e.g. Oakland, San Francisco, San Jose.

Joys and Challenges

- Jason Baker reported the recent hiring of Campbell's new City Manager: Amy Brown.
- Val Carpenter announced that this year commemorates Los Altos' 60th anniversary. A number of events will be held over the course of the year with a special dinner/dance/event on December 1, 2012. A special website has been dedicated to commemorate the special year: www.losaltosat60.org.
- Joe Pirzynski announced that Los Gatos is celebrating its 125th anniversary; the new library will be opening on February 11th.
- Jim Griffith of Sunnyvale announced that Apple Inc. will be expanding its current hometown location in Cupertino into Sunnyvale.
- Steve Tate of Morgan Hill announced the upcoming Bocce Ball fundraising event for the League of California Cities Peninsula Division. The event is scheduled for April 26th and sponsors and participating teams are needed.

Announcements

- Sam Liccardo announced two upcoming events that the Cities Association has co-partnered with Santa Clara County to host:
 1. Workshop for Elected Officials: Your Role in Preventing Suicides, Friday, January 13, 2012, Sunnyvale City Hall Chamber, 9 – 11 am.
 2. Policy Breakfast on Transportation & Safe Routes to School, February 1, 2012, San Jose City Hall Rotunda, 7:30 – 9:30 am.