



Napa County

Board Agenda Letter

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Upper Valley Waste Management Agency (UVWMA)
File ID #: 26-225

Agenda Date: 2/9/2026

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Steven Lederer - Manager, UVWMA
REPORT BY: Alice Ramirez - Secretary/Clerk, UVWMA
SUBJECT: Approval of Minutes

RECOMMENDATION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

REQUESTED ACTION: Approval of the December 15, 2025 regular meeting minutes.

BACKGROUND

Staff recommends approval of the December 15, 2025 regular meeting minutes. *Minutes attached.

FISCAL & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 15, 2025
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Upper Valley Waste Management Agency met in regular session on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 1:30p.m. at Yountville Town Council Chambers. Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 1:32p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Vice Chair Cooper, Member Bolt Trippe, Member Manfree, Chair Cottrell, Member Barak.

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Cottrell asked Nick Cheranich to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

During this period, anyone who wishes to speak to the Authority Board of Directors regarding any subject over which the Board has jurisdiction that is not on the agenda or to request consideration to place an item on a future Board agenda, may do so at this time. Individuals will be limited to a three-minute presentation. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL TAKE NO ACTION AS A RESULT OF ANY ITEM PRESENTED AT THIS TIME.

Jose Hernandez, resident of Napa County and member of LULAC, League of United Latin American Citizens. He is here today supporting the LULAC presentation but unfortunately needs to leave early. Also request these meetings be live streamed for full transparency public access.

5. **CONSENT ITEMS**

A. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

REQUESTED ACTION: Approval of the October 20, 2025, special meeting minutes.

B. **ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT**

REQUESTED ACTION: Approval and Acceptance of the Authority's annual June 30, 2025.

Approved Consent Items 5A & 5B: SC, HBT, AM, AC, and AB.

6. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

A. **CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT**

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Staff to provide an update on the status of activities relevant to the Act.

Agency's staff, Amanda Griffis, summarized staff report and highlighted some sections of the agenda report.

B. **CA LULAC PRESENTATION**

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION: Board to receive a presentation by The California League of United Latin American Citizens (CA LULAC).

Geoff Ellsworth, former mayor of St. Helena and member of Cal LULAC, presented the CA LULAC Presentation; co-presenter, Maria Gutierrez, President of Sacramento Council is out sick today.

Public Comment #1: Mark Gingrich, Division Vice-President with Waste Connections. Responded to comments made about the Company in the presentation including incorrect information.

Public Comment #2: Trish really hopes a lot is really happening to improve the working conditions for these employees. Also interested in knowing if compost is being tested and does not contain radiation. She would like compost to be tested by reliable company and published.

Public Comment #3: Chris Malan brought up concerns about contamination concerns she witnessed in the past and has not seen the matter addressed. She is also concerned about the employees working in these conditions. She also suggests Waste Connections provide a task force or presentation on all safety measures taking place under their leadership.

Public Comment #4: Frank Leads, a neighbor of the landfill on White Hall Lane. Has concerns about processing compost and now also possibly adding a transfer station here in an AG preserve area. Another concern is the fires in the area that he and a non-local person witnessed and reported to the fire department only to see reports state it was not a fire.

Board members asked a couple questions regarding comments made in the presentation and various public comments made and suggested a future 10-minute presentation by the company discussing Waste Connections safety measures in place.

7. FRANCHISES' BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Franchises' Status

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Manager and Company provided an update concerning the implementation of franchises' activities.

Nothing to report.

B. Waste Management Companies' Issues

DISCUSSION ITEM: This is an opportunity for the franchisee(s) to discuss/raise any items of concern they may wish the UVA to consider.

Public Comment: Chris Malan asks if Waste Connection management, as a precaution, can do testing due to contamination noted in the past.

Public Comment: Geoff Ellsworth adds Northern Recycling website shows Napa Recycling, Waste Services and Upper Valley as a sister company, if this is not correct Waste Management should have it corrected. Contaminated compost is a real problem.

Public Comment: Mark Gingrich, Division Vice-President with Waste Connections added Waste Connections does not have control over other websites possibly outdated or inaccurate information, but he can confirm Waste Connections is not affiliated with Northern Recycling company.

8. OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Manager's Report

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Manager to provide a written update on the status of current activities.

Agency Manager, Steve Lederer summarized this item and noted that included in this item is the requested information regarding the DA settlement of the 2019 leachate incident and a couple of emailed public comments attached as well.

The Brown Act has been updated and information on this update will be shared and discussed at a later time. New legislation also requires Board Members to take a new financial education course. Further information will follow.

Public Comment: Geoff Ellsworth would like a summary report for the DA's settlement report which includes details on what happened and remedy.

Member Trippe & Manager Steve Lederer added this public document was added here and includes clear details of the settlement including financial details. Also at the time, there was press release by the DA and newspaper coverage.

B. Reports from Jurisdictions

DISCUSSION ITEM: Reports by the member jurisdictions of current information relevant to the Agency:

- i. Napa County: Agency Manager added that the Napa Vallejo Waste Management Agency new construction and demolition debris recycling facility coming soon.
- ii. Calistoga: New street sweeper is actively being used.
- iii. St. Helena: Nothing to report.
- iii. Yountville: Nothing to report.

C. Future Agenda Items

DISCUSSION ITEM: Discussion of any items Board members wish to have addressed at a future meeting date.

Agency Manager, Steve Lederer, stated the board had previously discussed wanting an annual review of the Agency Counsel contract which expires in April. A board item will be added to this agenda in February to discuss.

-California Conservation of the North Bay (CCNB), litter collection company, would like to give an update on what they do for us (this agency).

-Also, future discussions on possibly adding a program like PG&E's Care Program (reduced rates for certain criteria) to this agency coming in June.

-Future 10-minute presentation by the company discussing Waste Connections safety measures in place.

-Calistoga may bring back for discussion, at a later time, an ordinance on mandatory commercial garbage pickup.

-Discussion on an update on closure process. Clarified the rate payors will not be paying for any part of the closure, when asked by Board member Bolt Trippe.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Agency Board of Directors will be held on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 1:30p.m. in the Yountville Town Council Meeting Chambers or as noted.

AYES: AB, AM, HBT, SC, AC

NOES: _____

ABSTAIN (A): _____

ABSENT(B): _____

EXCUSED(X): _____

By: 

ATTEST: Steven Lederer, Manager of the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency

KEY

Vote: AC = Anne Cottrell; AB = Aaron Barak; AM = Amber Manfree; HBT = Hillery Bolt Trippe; KS = Kate Spadarotto;

IL-O = Irais Lopez-Ortega; JG = Joelle Gallagher; PR = Pam Reeves; SC = Scott Cooper.

The maker of the motion and second are reflected respectively in the order of the recorded vote.

Notations next to vote: Y = Ayes; N = No; A = Abstain; B = Absent; X = Excused