

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MAY 22, 2000
CONTINUATION OF MAY 8 MEETING**

Chairperson Kristine Johnson opened the continuation of the May 8 meeting at 7:10 pm.

1. **Roll Call**

Present: Balsley, Becker, Chung, Johnson, Lerner, Maguire,
Schild, Sprague.

Absent: none

Staff: Tania Levy, Associate Management Analyst.

Members of the Public: Kathy Hutton and Kathy Evans from the Ecology Center

2. **Continuation of Plastics Discussion**

This item was held from the May 8 meeting to give the Plastic Task Force time to comment. The committee of staff and contractors met with Kathy Evans from the Plastic Task Force on May 18 and produced a revised plastic policy incorporating some task force suggestions. Staff recommended an additional change in the paragraph concerning PVC, stating that the environmental impacts of plastic were not within the knowledge or purview of the Solid Waste Division. Commissioners reviewed the Plastic Task Force recommendations, and the May 18 revisions, and made several changes.

MSC Balsley/Lerner 8/0/0: That the Commission recommends that Council adopt the revised plastics policy.

Paragraph 4 : Change to: such as collapsible plastic pallets, reusable bakery buckets and replacements for plastic film.

Paragraph 6: Change to: The City will investigate the negative environmental impacts of polyvinyl chloride in construction materials and consumer packaging, and make appropriate recommendations.

Paragraph 7: Change to: The City supports efforts to reduce the amount of landfilled plastic through education, direct campaigns, and legislation requiring manufacturers to make new products using recycled feedstock and to make new products compatible with existing municipal recycling programs.

At 7:45, it was MSC Becker/Lerner to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimous

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MINUTES

May 22, 2000

At 7:45, Chair Kristine Johnson called the meeting to order.

1. **Roll Call:**

Present: Balsley, Becker, Chung, Johnson, Lerner, Maguire, Schild, Sprague.

Absent: None.

2. **Public Comment** - none

3. **Possible grant for expansion of transfer station to handle additional organics**

Brian Matthews, the organics project coordinator for the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA), presented the authority's proposal to provide a grant of approximately \$650,000 to enlarge the transfer station to handle more organics. The grant is available only if the transfer station will become a regional facility for organic waste diversion, serving Albany, Emeryville, and parts of Oakland, including plant debris, food waste and contaminated paper. The County can fund one-time infrastructure costs, such as the transfer station expansion, and collection carts for Albany and Emeryville. The City would agree to a list of services and rate changes to increase organics collection in those cities, motivate haulers to separate their organics and to divert more wood and sheetrock from current refuse pile to composting. The ACWMA considers Berkeley the best program in the region, wants to remove barriers to expanding it, and wants to use it as a model for neighboring cities. Especially valuable is Berkeley's relatively low disposal costs, collection of food waste from businesses, the fact that all material is made into high quality compost, and that a percentage of finished compost is returned to the community for use by its citizens. Organics recycling is important, for achieving diversion goals.

Limits of the transfer station and the loading system create a barrier to expanded organic diversion. Refuse has to be moved out of the way to load compost, refuse and compost trucks must wait and take turns on the loading ramp, and residues from the refuse on the floor contaminate the compost. The tipping area for the public is severely limited. The remodel would include a new truck loading ramp/scale, expanded tipping area and a curved retaining wall on the North side of the transfer station.

Commissioners asked about the kinds of contaminated paper that would be included, the source of funds, increased traffic impacts, whether the new contractor has sufficient capacity, the logistics of working with adjacent cities, need for additional City workers, and the impact of the rate reductions.

It was MSC Sprague/Lerner to support the use of ACWMA funds to expand the transfer station to handle more organics, support the transfer organics expansion being of regional benefit, and support the attached stipulations in concept. Ayes: Johnson, Becker, Sprague, Lerner, Schild, Maguire, Chung. Noes: None. Absent: None. Abstentions: Balsley.

4. **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. (MSC Lerner/Sprague 9/0/0)

