

MINUTES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, June 25, 2001 7:00 P.M
Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street

Chairperson Rod Becker called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Roll call: Present: Balsley, Becker; Lerner, Schultz, Sprague; Absent Johnson, Maguire. Staff: Dowdakin, Farrell, Levy.
Members of the Public: Dave Williamson.
2. Announcements: None
3. Introduction of new Recycling Program Manager:
Tom Farrell introduced Rebecca Dowdakin, who was formerly the El Cerrito Recycling Program Manager.
4. Public comment: None
5. Approval of the May 21 minutes: It was M/S/C Lerner/Sprague to approve the minutes. The vote was 5/0/0.
6. Budget Update:
Tom Farrell reported on capital projects: Transfer station expansion soil tests are in process; construction is expected in 2002. Transfer station floor repair will be the first week in September. The Department is seeking funding to install a dust suppression system, which will be misting or air evacuation. The Airco building may be upgraded to house corporation yard staff while their building is repaired. The CNG station is undergoing startup tests and will open in mid July.

Since the request for an additional transfer trailer driver was denied, one driver is being transferred from plant debris collection. The new trailers have no walking floor or hydraulics and will haul 20% more tonnage, increasing efficiency. Rod Becker asked about the refuse fund reserve. There is no budget item for reserve. Staff will provide fund balance information for the next meeting.

Council adopted proposed new refuse rates. New services will be announced in the Division newsletter to be published in August.
7. Electronics Recycling:
SWMD staff attended a workshop sponsored by the West Coast Electronic Products Recycling Initiative. Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs) in monitors and televisions are banned from landfill but are not hazardous waste if they are destined for reuse or recycling. Therefore, the City can pick up and transport abandoned ones without hazardous waste procedures. Future recycling methods will probably involve the consumer bringing it to a retailer or a disposal site.

Stakeholders and legislators are considering methods of paying for electronics recycling, such as deposits, advanced disposal fee, or an industry fund with payments to collectors. The European Union is requiring manufacturers to phase out toxic elements.

Berkeley is shipping televisions and computer monitors to HMR – an Australian company with a processing facility in San Francisco. The items are refurbished or dismantled. Glass is shipped to a smelter in Minnesota to remove the lead. Alameda Computer Resource Center, a non-profit organization, will also accept monitors if with computers.

8. Division newsletter

Commissioners discussed topics for the forthcoming residential newsletter. It should be brief enough to read in 10 minutes, and should tell residents what to do with their discards. Suggested topics were a chart to show increase in recycling toward the 75% goal, what to do with excess trash, new fees and services, and recycling of special waste such as oil and CRTs. Rachel Balsley, Garth Schultz and Dick Lerner volunteered to review the draft newsletter individually. Since they will not meet or discuss it, they are not a subcommittee under the Brown Act.

9. Staff updates

Customer Service is now scheduled to consolidate with Finance on July 8. The Cash for Trash contest will be over July 13, and there will be an award ceremony at the July 17 Council meeting.

10. Future agenda items and meeting days

The next meeting will be August 27. Suggested topics include the feasibility of curbside used oil collection, battery recycling, arranging a tour of Grover, budget follow-up including the reserve, and customer service update.

11. Adjourn: It was MSC Lerner/Balsley to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.