



MINUTES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, September 23, 2002
Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street

Solid Waste Management Division

Chairperson Carrie Sprague called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call: Commissioners Present: Rachel Balsley, Kristine Johnson, Jay Miyazaki, Carrie Sprague (Chair)
Commissioners Arriving After Roll Call: Howard Chong (7:47 p.m.), Judith Maguire (7:04 p.m.)
Commissioners Absent: Rod Becker
Staff: Becky Dowdakin (Secretary)
Members of the Public: Sara MacKusick
2. Comments from the Public: None.
3. Announcements: Commissioner Kristine Johnson announced that she was moving back to Colorado and that the October meeting would be her last.
4. Approval of the August 26, 2002 Minutes: Approval of the minutes was moved and seconded Miyazaki/Maguire, but did not pass with a 3/0/2 vote (Balsley and Johnson abstained).
5. Old Business
 - a. **Harrison Village Shelter**

Dowdakin noted that she had provided the Commission with a draft letter from Commissioner Becker proposing a position on the Harrison Village Shelter. The Commission discussed the issue, though not the letter, in brief. It was moved and seconded Miyazaki/Maguire to table the discussion until the next meeting, and approved 5/0/0.
 - b. **Refuse Fund FY2003 Budget**

Dowdakin reported that she had no news to report on the meaning of “unallocated expenses.” She informed the Commission that Solid Waste Management Division (SWMD) staff was scheduled to meet with Budget Office staff in mid-October, and that either a budget analyst or Paul Navazio would attend the next meeting to explain terms and answer questions. This item was continued until next month.
5. New Business
 - a. **Solid Waste Management Plan**

Dowdakin provided two handouts (Summary of CIWMB –Approved Waste Management Programs and excerpted tables from the 2000 Waste Characterization Study by R.W. Beck) to help facilitate the discussion. Dowdakin summarized her understanding of the City’s 1986 Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and the 1992 Source Reduction and Recycling Element (SRRE). Almost all programs suggested by these two plans have been implemented, though in some cases the programs were implemented regionally rather than according to the narrower local vision of the plans. Miyazaki requested clarification of the waste diversion goals, and

Dowdakin responded that the State required 50% waste diversion in 2000 and ongoing, and the County requires 75% waste diversion in 2010. Both diversion goals are based on 1990 disposal figures. Miyazaki stated that it was time to update the plans to meet the 75% goal.

The Commission discussed a range of programs and issues including construction and demolition debris, expansion of the transfer station for plant debris, education, home composting, and residential food waste collection. Dowdakin informed the Commission that the City received one bid for the plant debris expansion project, and that it was about \$1.5 million dollars, approximately twice the amount of funding made available by the grant from the Alameda County Waste Management Authority. She said that staff had asked the contract engineers to revise their specification based on a new understanding of the water table, and that this would reduce costs somewhat, but the City's engineers expect the project to come in at about \$1 million. Sprague insisted that staff work with ACWMA to get full funding for the project, since from the beginning ACWMA had proposed it to serve as a regional facility. The consensus of the Commission was that the plant debris expansion project plays an important role in assisting the City reach the 75% goal.

Dowdakin said she would work with her staff in developing a new solid waste management plan, and would return to the Commission at a later date.

b. Mission Statement

Dowdakin mentioned that Commissioner Chong had raised this issue at the last meeting. The Commission discussed how they should go about rewriting the mission statement and get Council approval. Miyazaki said the Commission could recommend the change to Council. Johnson volunteered to draft a new mission statement and bring it to the next meeting.

c. Service to Multi-Unit Dwellings

Dowdakin reminded the Commission that the City provides recycling services to residential buildings with ten or more units, and that Ecology Center provides recycling services to buildings with fewer than ten units. According to the City's records, there are about 15,000 dwellings in buildings that have fewer than ten units, and the City provides recycling services at about 550 buildings with ten or more units. She added that the City does not currently have a brochure for multi-unit buildings. Balsley noted that some mailings are delivered to residents and some to managers, and that direct mail to residents is the most effective delivery.

Chong stated that first class sorted, rather than bulk mail is more likely to be put in the residents' mailboxes. He pointed out that it would be helpful if the City's customer service staff would call building managers or owners to set up recycling when a tenant requested it, rather than having the tenant go through the manager. He suggested that staff develop a fact-sheet to mail building managers when their tenants request recycling services.

Miyazaki asked if it was possible to mandate recycling in apartments. Dowdakin answered that it is not unusual for City's to specify by ordinance that building owners must allow their tenants to participate in the recycling programs, though participation itself is not required. Balsley added that Berkeley should have a mandate of this kind, at that a related problem is that many

managers over-subscribe to refuse service in order to control for surges during move-in and move-out periods.

Chong asked staff to look into local ordinances mandating recycling participation and access, and to report to the Commission. Balsley suggested that staff revive the Education/Public Information efforts for multi-family units.

6. Staff updates: Dowdakin reported that staff had produced a **Pacific Bell Directory Insert** that will be delivered with the telephone directories to new Pacific Bell customers throughout the year. . Byron Sher's **Legislation on Electronic Waste (SB 1523)** is sitting on the Governors desk awaiting his signature. This bill would establish a "deposit" system to assist in funding for CRT recycling. Dowdakin suggested that the Commission consider endorsing this bill at their next meeting, but Balsley pointed out that the Governor was required to act within 30 days. Last, Dowdakin reported that Ecology Center's **Plastics Task Force** had proposed that a sticker be placed on the curbside recycling containers informing residents in brief of the harmful effects of plastic and the doubtful benefit of recycling plastic bottles. Staff has rejected this sticker, and will meet with Ecology Center staff to discuss more appropriate means of educating the public regarding plastics. Johnson asked that staff request Ecology Center to present a report on the plastics education program at the next meeting.
7. Future agenda items and meeting days: The next meeting will be October 28, 2002. Dowdakin mentioned that the November meeting is scheduled for Thanksgiving week and the December meeting is scheduled for Christmas week. Prospective discussion items for the agenda include draft letter on Harrison Village Shelter, unallocated expenses in the budget, draft of new mission statement, service and outreach to apartments, and plastics education report.
8. Adjourn: M/S Balsley/Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 6/0/0. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.