



MINUTES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, June 23, 2003
Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street

Solid Waste Management Division

Chairperson Carrie Sprague called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

1. Roll Call: Commissioners Present: Jon Bauer, Rachel Balsley, Howard Chong,
Jay Miyazaki, Carrie Sprague
Commissioners Absent: James Bianco, Evelyn Giardina
Staff: Becky Dowdakin (Secretary)
Members of the Public: Martin Bourque, Sara MacKusick, David Williamson,
Joe C. Smith, Jr.

2. Comments from the Public: None

3. Announcements: Martin Bourque, Ecology Center Executive Director, announced that Ecology Center was celebrating 30 years of curbside recycling this year, and will have a celebration and awards dinner at the annual membership meeting on November 13, 2003. Bourque also announced that Ecology Center had sponsored a workshop on waste diversion with a focus on extended producer responsibility on Friday, June 20, at Oakland City Hall.

4. Ceremonial Item: Dowdakin announced that Commissioner Balsley was leaving Berkeley and therefore resigning from the Commission, thanked her for her years of service to the community, and presented her with a certificate of appreciation. Balsley's fellow Commissioners expressed their appreciation.

5. Approval of the Minutes from the April 28, 2003 Meeting: M/S Chong/Bauer to approve minutes of April 28, 2003 as written; approved 4/0/1.

6. New Business:
 - a. **Recognition of 50% Diversion Goal Achievement**
Miyazaki proposed that the Commission recognize that the City of Berkeley had achieved the 50 percent diversion goal. He cited as an example, that the Police Review Commission had recently recognized achievements of the Berkeley Police Department. Dowdakin pointed out that although staff had reported a 52 percent diversion rate to the California Integrated Waste Management Board, the actual rate has yet to be confirmed. Miyazaki offered to draft a memo in preparation of receiving official confirmation. Sara MacKusick volunteered to help with the history of the programs.

 - b. **Recycling Contractor Reports for 3rd Quarter of FY 2003**
Sara MacKusick, Executive Director of Community Conservation Centers (CCC), summarized her quarterly report, in brief. She noted that prices have been good, providing stable income, and that expenses and revenues were running close to budget estimate. Last, she mentioned that the growth of plastic volume appeared to be leveling out. Chong asked about excess capacity of the facility. MacKusick responded that without adding additional

shifts, there is little excess capacity. The consultant hired by CCC and Ecology Center, should be done with the operational audit within the next few weeks.

David Williamson, Recycling Manager for the Ecology Center, summarized his quarterly report. Tonnages are up, and workers compensation premiums continue to rise to outrageous levels. The Cash-for-Trash Contest is complete. Compared to the 2001 Contest, far less plant debris was found in the trash of the selected residents, only about two percent compared to 15-20 percent last time. Putrescible materials compose about 44-47 percent of the trash, and fiber composes about 15 percent. There were 453 Champions, 260 contestants, and 7 first-prize winners.

c. Staff Report on Diversion and Disposal in 3rd Quarter of FY 2003

Dowdakin briefly summarized her quarterly report on Transfer Station activities. Dowdakin pointed out that the most significant trends illustrated in the report were the increase in organics diversion, especially commercial food waste, and the lack of growth in commercial recycling.

d. Discussion of Proposed Amendments to Commissioners' Manual

Dowdakin informed the Commission that the City Manager had requested their input on the proposed revisions to the Commissioners manual. Sprague made some comments on grammar and style that she felt made the document unnecessarily difficult to read. The item was continued until the next meeting.

7. Old Business:

a. Discussion and Development of Annual Work Program

Dowdakin reminded the Commission that in their packet she included two sample reports to Council regarding work programs of other commissions, and noted their simplicity. She suggested that the Commissioners narrow their focus on what can be achieved in the short term. Bauer stated that the work program list in the packet was far less detailed than what they had discussed, and other commissioners agreed. The Commission discussed this item at length, including how to shorten the list, and organize it into just a few categories. Miyazaki volunteered to draft a work plan based on the list and discussion, to let Chong review it, and to return it to the Commission for discussion at the next meeting.

b. Discussion of Solid Waste and Recycling Services to Multi-Family Residences

Chong handed out a table from the 2000 Waste Characterization Study prepared by R.W. Beck for the Alameda County Waste Management Authority that showed estimated quantities landfilled by generating sector. The table showed that a significant portion of the waste generated by the multi-family sector is recyclable.

c. Ursula Sherman Village

Dowdakin provided a brief update on the status of the project proposed for 711 Harrison, including the schedule for review and hearings regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report. The Commission took no action. *[At this point, Commissioner Bauer had left the meeting, and because Commissioner Sprague would recuse herself, the Commission was left without a quorum needed to take action.]*

7. Staff Updates: Construction of the new **Plant Debris Area** at the Transfer Station began in May and then was stopped when contaminated soils were discovered. The soils are contaminated with lead and hydrocarbons from previous site uses, and the Engineering Division is seeking options for proper disposal. Groundwater contamination might also be an issue. The project is on hold until these problems are clarified and addressed. Environmental Science Associates completed a report for Public Works on **Transfer Station Dust Mitigation Measures**, and made several recommendations including fixing the roof to make the misting system more effective, washing dust off the pavement all the way to the curbs every day, and installing additional emission controls on the wheeled loaders.

Immediately following the April Commission meeting, City and Ecology Center staff took **Actions on Accessibility** issues raised by the Commission on Disability. Employees for Ecology Center and the City have been fully briefed on the importance of keeping the sidewalks clear of obstructions, and this work instruction is incorporated into the standard operating procedures of both operations. The commercial refuse bills that go out over the next three months will include a message about keeping the sidewalks clear, and the upcoming newsletters will also contain that information.

The **2003 Annual Cleanup** is under way, with the third event scheduled for June 27 and 28, and there is nothing unusual to report so far. Again this year, drop boxes were sited in the **UC Campus Area** and were generally filled to capacity.

The City has received a **DOC Grant Award** to promote bottle and can recycling in the commercial sector. The grant funds a full-time field representative position. **Commercial and Residential Newsletters** have been printed and mailed. **Other Public Outreach** that staff is working on includes posters for commercial recycling and foodwaste services. Public Works and Toxics Management is working on expanding the in-house collection of **batteries** in City facilities.

The Toxics Management Division has submitted a grant application to the California Integrated Waste Management Board for **Household Hazardous Waste Services** to home-bound residents. The proposal was modeled on services provided in San Francisco and Pinole where a contractor could provide collection of the materials and deliver them to the County's HHW facility. However, the County and ACWMA declined to agree to free disposal of such HHW, as is done in the aforementioned communities, even though it is generated by households in the County.

8. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Days: The next meeting will be July 28, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.
9. Adjourn: M/S Balsley/Miyazaki to adjourn, 4/0/0, at 10:12 p.m.