



**MINUTES**  
**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**  
**Monday, July 28, 2003**  
**Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street**

Solid Waste Management Division

Chairperson Carrie Sprague called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Roll Call: Commissioners Present: Howard Chong, Jay Miyazaki, Carrie Sprague  
Commissioners Absent: Jon Bauer, Evelyn Giardina  
Staff: Becky Dowdakin (Secretary)  
Members of the Public: Sara MacKusick, David Williamson
2. Comments from the Public: Miyazaki commented that the Commissioners should talk to their appointing Councilmembers regarding Commission vacancies.
3. Announcements: Miyazaki announced that he recently read that Portland, Oregon had achieved a 55% diversion rate, which was the highest of the 30 largest metropolitan areas in the U.S. The source article stated that they had focused on commercial issues and obstacles.
4. Approval of the Minutes from the June 23, 2003 Meeting: M/S Miyazaki/Chong to approve minutes of June 22, 2003 as written; approved 3/0/0.
5. New Business:
  - a. **Meeting Length and Time Allotments for Agenda Items**  
Sprague added this item to the agenda at the request of Commissioner Bauer and requested that the meetings end earlier, and that discussion be shortened. Sprague and Dowdakin agreed that they would discuss time allotted to each agenda item in developing the meeting agenda, and Sprague said she would monitor the time spent on each item during the meeting. M/S Chong Miyazaki to add a new regular item to the Approval of the Agenda, to limit each item to 15 minutes of discussion with extensions allowed by vote, and that all meetings will end at 9:00 p.m. unless extended by vote. Approved 3/0/0.
6. Old Business:
  - a. **Commission Work Program**  
Miyazaki summarized the main points in the draft information Council Report on the Work Program. It is organized into three categories as discussed at the previous meeting. Miyazaki revised his work after review by Chong. The Commission discussed both the work program and the work of the consultant that will be hired by the City to develop a Solid Waste Management Plan. Miyazaki emphasized that the Commission should have a proactive role in the development of the solid waste management plan. M/S Chong/Miyazaki to approve the report with minor amendments as discussed; approved 3/0/0.
  - b. **Ursula Sherman Village**  
Sprague announced that at its meeting on July 24, 2003, the Zoning Adjustments Board (ZAB) voted to approve the DEIR and plans for the Ursula Sherman village located at 711 Harrison

Street. The Commission requested that the Secretary and Chair convene a special meeting of the Commission in August if the ZAB decision was appealed.

**c. Draft Commissioners' Manual**

The Commission had no comment on the Draft Commissioners Manual.

**d. Commendation to Berkeley Public Works Department**

Dowdakin informed the Commission that the State had not confirmed the City's claim of 52% waste diversion in 2001. M/S Miyazaki/Chong to transmit the Informational Report to the City Council, commending the Solid Waste Management Division and its contractors for reaching the 50% diversion goal, including any technical amendments to the timeline to be made by staff, once confirmation is received from the State. Approved 3/0/0.

**e. Services to Multi-Family Residences.**

Item tabled without discussion.

7. Staff Updates: Dowdakin reported that the **Plant Debris Project** is stalled due to discovery of soil contaminated by hydrocarbons and lead. Though at first it appeared that the soil could be disposed as Alternative Daily Cover at a Class III landfill, it now appears that it might be too hazardous for this use. Staff has hired consultants to test the soil and groundwater to determine the extent of the contamination and to determine disposal costs. Staff is also beginning to consider alternatives to the project as designed. Dowdakin announced that the Division had implemented some **new staffing assignments**, including Wayne Phillips who has transferred from Health and Human Services to fill a vacant Associate Management Analyst position, and the temporary reassignment of the Division's Field Representative to work directly for the Recycling Program Manager. Last, Dowdakin reported that she attended the **Annual Conference of California Resource Recovery Association**, and that she felt that there is renewed interest in recycling as an environmental movement, rather than simply a disposal problem, and focused attention on issues such as pollution and producer responsibility.
8. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Days: The next meeting will be September 22, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. (August 25, 2003 meeting cancelled at request of Commission).
9. Adjourn: M/S Chong/Miyazaki to adjourn, 3/0/0, at 8:28 p.m.