



**MINUTES**  
**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**  
**Monday, September 22, 2003**  
**Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street**

Solid Waste Management Division

Chairperson Carrie Sprague called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Roll Call: Commissioners Present: Jon Bauer, Carrie Sprague  
Commissioners Arriving After Roll Call: Howard Chong (7:25 p.m.)  
Commissioners Absent: Evelyn Giardina, Jay Miyazaki  
Staff: Tom Farrell, Tania Levy (Acting Secretary), Darryl Moore  
Members of the Public: Jeff Belchamber, Susan Blachman, Sara MacKusick, Carlene St. John, David Williamson
2. Comments from the Public: None
3. Announcements: Tom Farrell announced that City Manager Weldon Rucker will retire in November, and that Phil Kamlarz has been appointed Acting City Manager.
4. Approval of the Minutes from the July 28, 2003 Meeting: M/S Chong/Bauer to approve minutes of July 28, 2003 after correcting two grammatical errors; approved 3/0/0.
5. Approval of Agenda
6. New Business:
  - a. **Presentation on FY 2004/05 Budget (handout)**

Darryl Moore, Senior Analyst for the Public Works Department, reviewed items of interest in the budget, and items under consideration for FY 2004-05 budget preparation. The SWMD did well to receive approval for a weighmaster and a long-haul driver. \$100,000 was allotted for a contractor to revise the Solid Waste Master Plan, and \$200,000 for capital improvements, including rehabilitation of the Airco Building. The City is tracking the cost of providing refuse and other services for special events; these currently are not budgeted.

MacKusick asked the status of the solid waste plan review. The RFP is at Purchasing and will be advertised shortly. Chong suggested that the Refuse Fund have a separate Capital Fund to save for future capital projects. Moore replied that his 5-year forecast includes building in more capital funds. The City Manager can create a fund, but it takes a vote of Council to direct money to it. Bauer asked about the timeline for remodeling Airco. Williamson noted Ecology Center concern about putting offices and more staff on a site with limited parking. The timeline is 3-4 months, and Facilities staff will work from here temporarily – no offices planned
  - b. **Quarterly Report from Community Conservation Centers**

Sara MacKusick presented the Quarterly report. She pointed out an overall increase in FY

2003 tons over FY 2002 of 6.6%, despite the scavenging that usually accompanies high market prices. Material sales averaged \$73/ton, well over the \$60/ton of revenue budgeted.

c. **Quarterly Report from Ecology Center**

Dave Williamson presented the Quarterly report. The Cash-for-Trash promotion ended in June, and was successful. The final report will be available at the October Commission meeting. Bauer asked about Used Motor Oil collection. The Ecology Center is being funded by the City's Toxics Management Division to provide receptacles that fit under the car, for residents to use when they change their oil. Residents will bring their oil to a recycling location, and re-use the container. This will help residents to use a safe container. Chong expressed concern that people know not to leave the container at curbside. Chong also asked for information about Ecology Center's use of outreach funds.

d. **Quarterly Report from Solid Waste Management Division**

Tania Levy presented the quarterly report on diversion and source of materials. Organics diversion increased 20% over the same quarter in FY 2002, and more metal, mattresses and consumer electronics were salvaged, reflecting increased efforts at the transfer station. Chong asked staff to address the difference between incoming and outgoing refuse tons at the October meeting. Sprague reported a construction debris box on her street from a non-franchised hauler that contained mixed waste and plant debris, and inquired about the City's process of diverting construction waste.

e. **Communication from the Public Works Commission About Litter** (handout)

Carlene St. John, Chair of the Public Works Commission, stated that Public Works Commission is concerned about litter in the storm drains and on the streets after curbside recycling days. This is especially true in the Sather Gate area. Reasons for the problem and possible solutions were discussed. Possible reasons are setouts disturbed by scavengers, passers by dropping materials into bins after they were emptied, and absence of litter containers. Ecology Center reported receiving very few litter complaints about their drivers. Possible solutions are collecting in carts with lids in that area to get recycling off the sidewalk; more public litter cans; hand-held street sweeper, more education about storm drains. Staff suggested controlled observations to determine the main locations and sources of the litter.

7. Old Business:

a. **Services to Multi Family Residences**

Staff clarified what recycling services City provides for apartment buildings. Chong inquired whether the manager or owner gets literature and pointed out that 12 units requires an on-site manager but City starts serving ten unit buildings. Brochures and education for multi-family residents are needed. Staff described new posters that will soon be available and previous efforts to contact managers and owners. Commissioners agreed that multi-family recycling should be addressed in the work plan, and not as old business.

8. Staff Updates: Farrell reported that the **Plant Debris Project** is back on track: Engineering staff will submit drawings to the Permit Center this week; They expect a construction permit quickly because they have worked closely with all regulators. The soil is less contaminated than previously thought and the cost overrun will be less, but they will not be sure until they start work. Levy distributed a summary of **SB20, Electronics Recycling**, which is on the Governor's desk for signature. The system is similar to the beverage deposit system. Retailers or manufacturers will pay a fee to the State for each television or monitor they sell; the state will pay registered processors and collectors for each item they recycle. The City will be able to certify as a recycler, or leave collection to the private sector. SB20 also requires manufacturers to phase out toxic contents by 2007, in line with European Union regulations, and requires that processors meet international environmental and worker protection standards. The League of Cities and Association of Counties are among bill supporters. Commission comment to Council is requested on the staff proposal for a **Pilot Neighborhood Cleanup** by appointment, to begin in spring of 2004. This item will be on the October meeting agenda. Levy announced that as of August 2003, **Commercial organics collection** surpassed FY 2002 tons, and SWMD received \$25 per new ton from ACWMA. Last, Levy reported that **Berkeley Unified School District (BUSD)** has adopted most of staff recommendations for reduced refuse service, resulting in annual saving of over \$50,000 in refuse fees. This saving is possible due to recycling, reducing illegal dumping, and otherwise eliminating excess service. For the first time, the school district reduced summer service at many sites, saving additional money. BUSD will unexpectedly receive technical assistance from ACWMA this school year; the funds became available because the Fremont school district withdrew from the program. ACWMA will provide help establishing standard recycling procedures, classroom instruction, tours, and assemblies. The City contracted with Marcy Greenhut 20 hours/week to continue working with each school to improve recycling.
9. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Days: Suggested agenda items for the October meeting include scheduling work plan items, litter in neighborhoods, incoming and outgoing refuse, and neighborhood cleanup pilot.
10. Adjourn: M/S Chong/Bauer to adjourn, 3/0/0, at 9:00 p.m.