



MINUTES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, March 22, 2004
Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street

Public Works Department
Solid Waste Management Division

Chairperson Howard Chong called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Howard Chong, Jay Miyazaki, Peter Schultze-Allen, Carrie Sprague

Commissioners Absent: Susan Blachman

Council Member: Betty Olds

Staff: Becky Dowdakin

Members of the Public: Genevieve Dreyfus, Joe C. Smith Jr.

2. Comments from the Public: Genevieve Dreyfus introduced herself, and expressed interest in being appointed to the Commission by Council Member Olds.

3. Announcements: Miyazaki noted that the Commission's Budget Subcommittee of the met with staff early in March. Miyazaki also noted that the City Manager is recommending consolidating the Solid Waste Management Commission with the Public Works Commission, and Council will discuss this item at their Special Meeting on Tuesday night [March 23, 2004].

4. Approval of the Minutes from the February 22, 2004 Meeting: Schultze-Allen corrected the minutes to indicate that he, rather than Sprague, had seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. M/S Sprague/Miyazaki to approve the minutes of February 22, 2004 as amended; approved 4/0/0.

5. Approval of Agenda: Chong suggested that the time allocated for agenda items 6c and 7b be reduced to five minutes each. M/S Schultze-Allen/Sprague, to make the suggested time reductions; approved 4/0/0.

6. New Business:

a. **Implementation of Work Plan Items**

Staff Technical Reports to Commission

- I(f) Information Tracking: Chong commented on the quarterly reports that the Commission had received from the recycling contractors and staff, and reemphasized that the Commission preferred a consolidated report that might include other factors which affect program tonnages. Dowdakin stated that she thought a consolidated report was a good idea, but cautioned that staff should not be expected to provide additional reports at the whim of the Commission. Miyazaki responded that the Commission's goal was to develop useful information, not to create additional hurdles. Miyazaki further recommended that the reports be annual or semi-annual, and that staff make use of the assistance offered by the Commission subcommittee established last month for this purpose. Schultze-Allen clarified that the reports should include factors that might explain anomalies in the data. Chong stated that the subcommittee would do well with

work plan items I(f) and II(b), and would like to take these items off the plate of the full Commission.

- II(b) Service Quality: The Commission discussed this topic at their previous Commission meeting and did not discuss it further tonight.
- III(a) Quarterly Budget Review: This item was not discussed, as it falls under the purview of the Commission's Budget Subcommittee, which had no report to make tonight. The Budget Subcommittee will report at the next Commission meeting.

M/S Schultze-Allen/Sprague to extend time on this item by 10 minutes; approved 4/0/0.

Municipal Code Review

- I(i) Review Berkeley Municipal Codes, and state and regional regulations related to solid waste planning and management: Dowdakin provided a quick overview of the Berkeley Municipal Code sections that she had included in the packet. Schultze-Allen asked if "source-separated recyclables" should include food scraps. Dowdakin answered that it does not now, but it could if the definition was amended. Dowdakin described the City's interest in controlling garbage for public health reasons. She observed that because Oakland classified commercial food scraps as "recyclable," competition for this waste stream improved diversion of commercial organics from the waste stream. Schultze-Allen noted that the Public Works Department Head could rule that in some cases refuse must be picked up more frequently than once per week, and asked if a collection frequency of less than once per week was possible. Dowdakin said that the interpretation in Berkeley has been that weekly collection of refuse is the required minimum.

b. Discussion of Options for City-Wide Reuse Events

Dowdakin distributed a chart showing population and housing data for El Cerrito, Sunnyvale, and Berkeley, and costs associated with reuse programs offered in those three communities. Dowdakin described the cost and effectiveness of the city-wide garage sales held in El Cerrito and Sunnyvale, and suggested that Berkeley costs would be similar when adjusted for population or number of households. Miyazaki disagreed, and promoted the idea of informal neighborhood swap meets that would cost the City nothing. Chong suggested that swap meets could be organized at school sites as fundraisers. Dowdakin responded that the interest of SWMD is to provide effective waste diversion programs, not community events *per se*, and that these options needed to be evaluated in the context of waste diversion foremost. Miyazaki insisted that staff could promote a low-cost swap event. The Commission continued this item to the next meeting.

c. Discussion of Commission Tour of CCC Operations

Dowdakin informed the Commission that the CCC manager and executive director were happy to provide tours of CCC operations at the Berkeley Recycling Center on request, but any tour is best done during the day. Dowdakin reminded the Commission that if three or more Commissioners wished to take a tour at the same time, the tour would have to be noticed as an official meeting.

7. Old Business:

a. Staff Presentation of FY2005 Budget

Chong stated that he would like more frequent or more regular budget updates from staff. Miyazaki suggested that the Budget Subcommittee would explore that issue. The Commission tabled this item until the next meeting.

b. Neighborhood Litter

Dowdakin informed the Commission that staff agreed to meet with a Public Works Commission subcommittee on this topic. Sprague stated that City needs an anti-litter campaign.

8. Staff Updates: Dowdakin reported that the **plant debris construction project** was well underway, with excavation complete and rebar being set in preparation for concrete pouring. The initial direction from the City Manager's Budget Offices is to increase **refuse rates** by five percent in FY2005. Staff is preparing a second update on the **transfer station cash handling audit**, and will report that SWMD has completely implemented all recommendations made in the audit. The brochure for the **bulky cleanup** is nearly complete, and should be printed and mailed in the next few weeks. Staff continues to work with ACWMA on institutionalizing recycling in **BUSD**. The elementary schools are doing well, but Berkeley High School's recycling program has fallen apart again, though the city is committed to collecting recyclables there.

9. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Days: The next meeting is April 26, 2004. The agenda will include continuation of discussion on work plan (code review and budget implementation) and reuse events, and staff presentation of FY2005 budget, and review of work plan calendar.

10. Adjourn: M/S Schultze-Allen/Miyazaki to adjourn at 8:42 p.m. Approved 4/0/0.