



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES**  
**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**  
**Monday, August 23, 2004**  
**Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street**

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

1. Roll Call:

**Commissioners Present:** Susan Blachman (7:40 pm); Howard Chong, Genevieve Dreyfus, Steen Jensen, Jay Miyazaki, Carrie Sprague, Jonathan Wafer

**Commissioner Absent:** Peter Schultze-Allen

**Staff:** Tom Farrell, Tania Levy

**Members of the Public:** Dave Williamson, Joe Smith

2. Comments from the Public: None

3. Announcements: Miyazaki distributed a draft Commission report to Council on Refuse Fund Study Recommendations and a FY 04 Refuse Fund Budget Implementation Report. Tom Farrell announced that Becky Dowdakin has taken a recycling manager job with the City of Oakland.

4. Approval of the Minutes from the June 28, 2004 Meeting: M/S Sprague/Miyazaki to approve the minutes of June 28, 2004 as corrected; approved 6/0/0.

5. Approval of Agenda: M/S Sprague/Dreyfus to adopt the agenda as written.

6. New Business:

a. **Solid Waste Management Plan:** Commissioner Dreyfus distributed copies of a memo she sent to Betty Olds, describing the first public workshop held on August 16. Commissioners Miyazaki and Dreyfus, Dan Knapp of Urban Ore, and three members of the public attended; no representatives of the business community were present. Commissioners and staff discussed how to better publicize the workshops. Suggestions for improving outreach were discussed, including holding focus groups, sending a questionnaire to target groups, and including interesting questions-to-be-addressed in outreach material. At 7:35, M/S Sprague/Dreyfus to increase discussion time by five minutes. The Commission decided their suggestions would be advisory to staff.

**Commissioner Blachman arrived at 7:40.**

b. **Quarterly Report from Community Conservation Centers (CCC):** Tabled.

c. **Quarterly Report from the Ecology Center:** Dave Williamson presented the quarterly report for the Ecology Center. The Ecology Center has retired two of its eleven-year-old vehicles and purchased one new truck. Tons are lower in 2004 than in the same quarter in 2003, assumed due to poaching and economic factors like less advertising, therefore smaller newspapers. Some routes are down 50%. Joe Smith commented that professional poachers in large trucks are also harvesting from commercial setouts. Staff noted poaching is a

misdeemeanor but penalties are difficult to enforce, and that something like a traffic ticket or impounding the vehicle could be more effective. Blachman requested that changing the penalty for poaching be discussed at a future Commission meeting.

- d. **Quarterly Tonnage Report from Solid Waste Management Division:** Levy reported that the quarterly tons were similar to the same quarter in 2003. Food waste collection is up 15%. Staff is investigating the discrepancy between tons of organics reported inbound and reported outbound.
- e. **Recycling Outreach in Multi Family Dwellings:** Dave Williamson presented the Ecology Center's plan to determine the practicality of collecting recyclables from small (2-9 unit) multi-family dwellings using semi-automated carts rather than individual curbside totes used now. He expects to provide information to the Solid Waste Planning process in February.
- f. **Implementation of Work Plan Items:** Chong suggested revisiting the Commission's work plan, because the Commission has new members. Miyazaki suggested assigning tasks at the next meeting.
  - 1) **Establish a quarterly budget implementation review process, focusing on the transfer station operations:** Miyazaki suggested asking Council to establish a separate transfer station Capital Fund. Farrell reported that the City Manager has assigned \$500,000 annually within the refuse fund for capital purchases, including \$150,000 for carts and bins and \$350,000 for capital improvements. Unused funds can be carried over. In FY 2005, the Division will use \$100,000 to repair the transfer station floor, \$40,000 for pit repair and \$80,000 for paving and lights.
  - 2) **Municipal Code Review:** M/S Sprague/Wafer to table this item to the next meeting and request staff to provide the relevant Codes to all Commissioners. Approved 6/0/0.

7. Old Business:

**Meeting Times:** The Commission discussed the possibility of changing meeting times; no action was taken.

8. Staff Updates: The **Plant Debris Expansion Project** has been delayed to install a sewer line and pretreatment filter to handle water pumped from the bottom of the loading bay. Ribbon cutting will likely be in October. **Staffing Update:** Farrell expects to receive approval to hire a new Recycling Program Manager and replace Delores Dawson, Office Specialist 3 who retired after 33 years of service. The City is advertising to fill seven vacant worker and driver positions (10% of the work force) and two vacant weigh master positions.

9. The Chair introduced Jonathan Wafer, appointed to the Commission by Council Member Breland on July 23, 2004.

10. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Days: The next meeting day is September 27, 2004. Agenda items The agenda will include the Recommendation to Council for the Refuse Fund Study (Action item), the Precautionary Principle Ordinance, The Commission Work Plan, Municipal Code Review and a discussion of the Solid Waste Plan workshops.

11. Adjourn: M/S Miyazaki/Sprague to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. Approved 7/0/0.