



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, September 27, 2004
Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street

Chairperson Howard Chong called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners Present: Susan Blachman (7:40); Howard Chong, Steen Jensen, Jay Miyazaki, Peter Schultze-Allen, Carrie Sprague, Jonathan Wafer

Commissioner absent: Genevieve Dreyfus

Staff: Tom Farrell, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: Jeff Belchamber, Sara MacKusick

2. Comments from the Public: None

3. Announcements: Schultze-Allen described an E-Scrip program in which a percent of the purchase cost goes to a non-profit organization.

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from August 23, 2004: M/S Wafer/Sprague to approve the minutes of August 23, 2004 as written. Approved 6/0/1 (Schultze-Allen abstained).

5. Approval of Agenda: M/S Schultze-Allen/Jensen to move item 6a to the end of the agenda, and to adopt the agenda. Approved 6/0/0.

6. New Business

a. **Quarterly Report from Community Conservation Centers:** Jeff Belchamber distributed a corrected Quarterly report. Buyback and donation business has increased, especially in aluminum cans, PET bottles and scrap metal, due to poaching and increased state redemption value for beverage containers. Market prices are high for all materials - an average \$95/ton compared to \$75/ton in FY 04. Belchamber and MacKusick responded to commissioners' questions: Jensen asked about the use of capital funds; CCC spent less than budgeted because they did not need a new front loader. Chong asked how much capacity CCC has to increase tons processed. They could increase by 10% by adding a seventh sorting day, and more with second shifts. Miyazaki questioned the Cost of Sales compared to revenues. CCC will review and respond to this question. In August, CCC paid out \$100,000 at the buyback – the highest amount ever.

7. Old Business

a. **Recommendation for Refuse Fund Study:**

Miyazaki presented the memo to Council concerning the refuse fund. 1) The Commission should be involved in the budget process early enough to be effective. 2) All uses of the Refuse Fund should be authorized by resolutions: Currently, only solid waste, recycling and street/sidewalk cleaning are included in resolutions. 3) The City should base fee increases on

all real costs, not just the percent increase in labor cost. The Commission's January, 2003 memo to Council resulted in \$350,000/year budgeted in FYs 04 and 05 for capital improvements after a long period of deferred maintenance. This is sufficient because the Division can only administer a finite amount of maintenance work per year.

At 7:50 M/S Jensen/Wafer to increase discussion time by ten minutes: Approved 5/0/2 (Miyazaki and Sprague abstaining).

The Refuse Fund's budget for Clean Cities increased by \$1 million in FY 2005 because as other sources of funding disappeared, refuse fund's share increased. Sprague noted that Council has assigned projects to the refuse fund, and that the Solid Waste Management Division and Commission should have more impact on that process. Farrell described the surcharge that funds the Fire Fuel programs. Chong thought it appropriate to fund Economic Development programs because it encourages markets for recyclables; he does not want to ask Council to find other funding for it. M/S Chong/Blachman to continue the discussion at the October meeting. Approved 7/0/0.

6a. **Precautionary Principle Ordinance**

Commissioner Blachman presented the draft Precautionary Principle ordinance and requested the Commission approve it in principle. Council passed a resolution in 2003 requesting staff to prepare an ordinance, an environmental purchasing policy, and a list of next steps for implementation. An Ad Hoc committee of commissioners, staff and members of the public produced these items. Miyazaki wanted more time to review the ordinance and requested a staff opinion. Farrell compared it to the Environmental Management System successfully implemented by the Solid Waste Management Division, and described the experience of the City's custodial staff in using precautionary principles to purchase products. M/S Schulze-Allen/Miyazaki that **"The Solid Waste Commission agrees with the intent and purpose of the Draft Ordinance on the Precautionary Principle and the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Policy, and recommends that Council adopt them"** Approved 6/0/1. Miyazaki abstained because he did not receive the precautionary principle information before the meeting.

7b. **Commission Work Plan**

Chong pointed out work plan tasks that had been successfully completed, and suggested that remaining tasks be rescheduled and better defined. Some tasks would be better done through the Solid Waste Management Plan revision. Blachman asked why poaching of recyclables was not in the work plan. Commissioners agreed to choose tasks of interest to work on, and bring their choices to the October meeting. Miyazaki and Sprague will begin work on the 2005-06 budget.

7c. **Municipal Code Review - Sections 12.32 and 12.34**

Commissioners suggested additions to the code to address new programs and approaches, such as defining food waste and exploring different rate structures. Farrell stated that there are obsolete and contradictory items in the code, and that the City's interest in zero waste and sustainability may open new topics. Staff will provide an annotated copy of the code.

7d. Solid Waste Management Plan

Schulze-Allen described the discussion of organic discards at the September 16 public meeting. The next meeting, September 30 at 1201 Second Street, will focus on the transfer station site plan.

8. Staff updates

Capital Improvements : Farrell reported that repairs to the transfer station floor are complete. The plant debris expansion was delayed while water filters were installed. Staff will inform commissioners of a new ribbon cutting date. The next project is repairing the loading portal. **Staffing** : Seven driver/helper positions, two weigh masters and the recycling program manager position are vacant and have approval in concept to be filled. Vacant refuse worker positions are temporarily covered by use of overtime and by a contract hauler to landfill. **Berkeley Schools**: Levy reported that the School District is directing each school to recycle. The City's contractor is having good response with several schools implementing cafeteria programs.

9. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Days: The next meeting day is October 25, 2004. The agenda will include Recommendation to Council for the refuse fund study, the Commission work plan, Poaching, and Review of the Berkeley Municipal Code.

10. Adjourn: M/S Chong/Sprague to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Approved 7/0/0.