



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES**  
**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**  
**Monday, January 24, 2005**  
**Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street**

Chairman Howard Chong called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

**Commissioners present:** Susan Blachman (7:30), Howard Chong, Genevieve Dreyfus, Steen Jensen, Jay Miyazaki, Peter Schultze-Allen, Carrie Sprague

**Commissioners absent:** None

**Staff:** Tania Levy

**Members of the Public:** Jeff Belchamber, Dee Oppill, Sankor Sridaran; David Tam; Dave Williamson

2. Comments from the Public: Mr. Sridaran introduced himself as a student at UCB interested in serving on the Commission. Ms Oppill introduced herself as a recycling professional from out of town.

3. Announcements: Levy announced that Commissioner Wafer resigned effective January 19, leaving two vacancies. Election of officers should be scheduled for the February, 2005 meeting.

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from November 22, 2004: M/S Sprague/Dreyfus to approve the minutes of November 22, 2004 with two grammatical changes. Approved 5/0/1 with Chong abstaining due to his absence at the November meeting.

5. Approval of Agenda: M/S Miyazaki/Schultze-Allen to approve the agenda deleting item 6b, Report from Budget Subcommittee. Approved 6/0/0.

6. New Business

- a. **Budget Implications of 75% Diversion:** Levy reviewed the memo from Tom Farrell to the Director of Public Works. The Division is proposing that residential weekly organics collection take place in three phases from FY 07 through FY 09. The first phase will require a driver, helper, and new truck, and new carts to accommodate new generators and requests to change service levels. The program would accept the same items as the commercial food scrap program. This plan has not been approved by anyone, but is put forward because the truck must be budgeted in FY 06 to be ordered in time to arrive in FY 07. Other programs toward 75% include the construction/demolition ordinance and increased commercial recycling. The Division is requesting computerized routing software to re-route more efficiently. Commissioners discussed what new rate structure would be appropriate, and whether refuse collection could be reduced to biweekly. Miyazaki suggested using the Commission to promote public discussion. Sprague would like to find a way to use fewer trucks; we used to collect everything in one truck, but we now use three trucks for refuse, organics and recycling.

b.

Susan Blackstone arrived at 7:30.

Schulze-Allen noted that historically there was less waste and different types of waste because people burned their trash, bottles were returnable, and there were no compactor trucks. He

described San Francisco's use of a bi-loader for refuse and commingled recyclables, which have a consistent volume year round, and a separate truck for organics. Levy said staff would consider lengthening refuse routes and reducing their number based on experience during the first phase of residential organics. The Commission suggested that staff look at cities, such as Vancouver, that provide a bi-weekly refuse collection option.

It was M/S Chong/Schultze-Allen that the Solid Waste Management Commission is very supportive of weekly residential collection of organics, and looks forward to reducing refuse routes in the future. Approved 7/0/0

Levy reported that the Commission's reports on the budget are on the February 15 Council Agenda as information items.

- c. **Mayor's Sustainability Initiative:** Levy listed elements of the sustainable business program, described the working group of environmental departments, and provided the Mayor's comments promoting a zero-waste program in Berkeley. Blachman wants detailed information about when meetings are scheduled and with whom. Miyazaki said the summary of initiatives should include the revision of the Solid Waste Management Plan. Sprague suggests reducing the size of new buildings to reduce use of materials. The Energy office is sponsoring a Green Expo April 30, 2005 to promote practical green building and business practices. Chong requested information on green business successes; Schultze-Allen suggests long term plans (e.g. 50-500 years) are needed to achieve sustainable practices. Commissioners requested a presentation on the environmental initiatives at a future meeting. The Division can include environmental business information in the next commercial newsletter.

## 7. Old Business

- a. **Poaching:** Levy reported that she and Dave Williamson of the Ecology Center met with Officer Nutterfield concerning poaching enforcement, and subsequently made a presentation on January 10 to the Berkeley Safe Neighborhoods Committee (BSNC), as arranged by Commissioner Dreyfus. The BSNC consists of the leaders of Neighborhood Watch groups. Commissioners suggested also notifying other community police, neighborhood liaisons and neighborhood associations about the poaching enforcement plan. Staff expects to have an article in the next residential newsletter encouraging residents to report poachers to the Ecology Center and police.

It was MS Dreyfus/Jensen that the Commission thanks the Division staff, Police and Ecology Center for their work toward reducing poaching. Approved 7/0/0.

- b. **Solid Waste Plan:** The consultant is scheduled to make a presentation at the February SWMC meeting. Chong asked that the consultants address whether materials are still in the waste stream because people do not participate in existing programs, or because additional programs are needed. Williamson cited participation in organics recycling as a success, because he found no plant debris when he sorted residents' trash during the Cash for Trash program.

## 8. Information Items

- a. **Commissioner's Handbook Revision:** Commissioner requested a copy showing what changes had been made.
- b. **Statements of Economic Interest:** Commissioners have received them and are filling them out.

9. **Staff Updates: Capital Improvements:** The expanded organics area will be ready for use as soon as a light is installed at the entrance to the driveway. The contractor repaired leaks in the new pit. Repairs are complete on the rear wall of the refuse pit, and a contractor is evaluating the work to be done on the transfer station's roof and walls. **SWMD Staffing:** January 24 is the last day for application for Recycling Program Manager. Solid Waste driver and helper vacancies are filled. Of three temporary positions to replace workers on long-term disability leave, one has been approved and two are pending. The State **Electronics Recycling Act** began on January 1, 2005. The contractor is approved by the State and the City was approved as a Collector on January 24. So far no other Berkeley firm has registered as a collector, but some may be in the pipeline. The City will accept CRTs without charge at the transfer station, but may charge minimums and weight if the CRT is part of a load of other items. **Commercial Food Scraps Recycling** is improving, with Applied Compost Consultants (ACC) contracted to assess and train customers. ACC is working with Alta Bates and Herrick Hospitals, Spenger's Restaurant and Hotel Durant. **Holiday Tree** Collection. Residents routinely set out their trees with plant debris; there were very few commercial trees. The drop off bins at the transfer station and at Dwight/King have been emptied three times.

Belchamber and Levy offered tours to new commissioners and commission applicants. Dreyfus, Jensen, Blachman and Schulze-Allen will contact Belchamber to schedule.

10. **Future Agenda Items and Meeting Days:** The next meeting will be February 28, 2005. Agenda items will include the FY 06 and 07 budgets, concepts for long term rate restructuring, election of Commission officers and a presentation by ESA on the Solid Waste Management Plan revision. Future agendas will include a presentation on the Sustainable City projects and a progress report by contractor Marcy Greenhut on recycling at City schools. Commissioners wish to be informed at their meetings about scheduled Council items related to the Solid Waste Management Division.
11. **Adjourn:** It was M/S Schultze-Allen/Jensen to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Approved 7/0/0.