



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, April 4, 2005
Solid Waste Management Center, 1201 Second Street

Chairman Peter Schultze-Allen called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Susan Blachman (7:30), Steen Jensen, Jay Miyazaki, Peter Schultze-Allen, Sankor Sridaran, David Tam (8:30)

Commissioners absent: Carrie Sprague

Staff: Tom Farrell, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: Jeff Belchamber and Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Center (CCC), Martin Bourque –Director of the Ecology Center, Dan Knapp of Urban Ore, Mark Gorrell and Judith Silver.

2. Comments from the Public: Jeff Belchamber stated that CCC is rebuilding its baler, at a cost of \$65,000. He expects this to increase baling efficiency by 25%. Martin Bourque distributed a zero waste resolution, which is more comprehensive than that passed by Council, and expressed his enthusiasm for the Zero Waste project.

3. Announcements: Levy announced the resignation of Commissioners Dreyfus and Chong, and the appointment of Commissioners Tam by Council Member Anderson, and Sridaran by Council Member Worthington. Schultze-Allen announced the Green Gathering sponsored by the Mayor's Office and the University on April 14 and invited Commissioners to attend. The City-sponsored Green Home Expo will be April 30.

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from February 28, 2005: M/S Jensen/Miyazaki to approve the minutes of February 28, 2005 as written. Approved 4/0/0.

5. Approval of Agenda: M/S Schultze-Allen/Jensen to approve the agenda. Approved 4/0/0.

6. New Business

- a. Council Request to study Zero Waste and rename commission: Farrell stated this is a large task, of national interest. The new solid waste plan will incorporate and be consistent with Zero Waste principles. Miyazaki inquired about the City Manager's proposal to eliminate the Solid Waste Commission (SWMC) and combine it with the Public Works Commission as a cost saving measure. Farrell responded that the SWMC is working on the Solid Waste Plan update, which is the task it was created for, and has other tasks assigned by Council. Schultze-Allen suggested tabling the name change to the next meeting.

Commissioner Blachman arrived at 7:30.

7. Old Business

- a. Solid Waste Management Plan
Commissioners and public participants discussed the site improvement plans

presented by ESA at the February 28 meeting. Staff distributed a list of questions from Commissioners.

MacKusick distributed a drawing of the CCC site and memo suggesting changes in the incremental plan. (The incremental plan reconstructs the bottle/can sorting facility, adds offices for Solid Waste Management and CCC, and rearranges scales and parking). Staff will arrange a meeting of ESA and all contractors operating on the site. Most discussion then centered on option 3 – the total site overhaul.

- Possibility of moving to an alternate site: ESA stated that the SWM Center's current location in an industrial area close to a freeway is ideal, although small, and there is no site in Berkeley it could reasonably move to. Though near the railroad, ESA does not recommend rail haul.

Commissioner Tam arrived at 8:30, due to problems reaching the meeting on public transportation. He suggested changing the meeting location to one near public transit.

- Funding of option 3: The estimated cost, not including equipment and permitting, is \$19 million. Funding options suggested by ESA include participation of neighboring cities, anticipated increased business and revenue, and a moderate increase in fees to cover debt service. Commissioners requested more cost and time projections and asked if the estimate includes the loss of revenue during construction.
- Increased capacity to handle more customers with less wait time would be accomplished by more efficient traffic patterns, separation of functions and new weigh master technology.
- The project would be phased in over a 5-10 year period. The new ramp for organics materials will be in use during most of that time.
- The costs and benefits of the "extras", such as green building and the Visitor Center were discussed. Solar energy could pay for itself if City could sell the excess energy generated.
- The final report to the Council should include a discussion of all options.

At 9:00, it was MSC Tam/Miyazaki to extend meeting to 9:15. 6/0/0

- b. 2006-07 Biennial Budget: Farrell reported that the Public Works budget for FY 2006 is similar to the 2005 budget. It does not include savings for new activities toward the 75% goal.
- c. Response to Council request concerning reuse of polystyrene (PS): Commissioner Jensen described his preliminary research. Local stores accept packing pellets and soft packaging. There is one market for PS block in Redwood City, but there are issues with collection and quality control. Tam suggested substituting molded paper, and Martin Bourque suggested involving the Green Business program to work with local businesses to use alternatives.

8. Staff reports: **Capital projects:** the organics area ramp is in use. **Staffing:** Interviews for Recycling Program Manager are underway, with expectation to hire May 1. **Biodiesel:** The fleet is no longer using biodiesel due to suspected engine damage and cost. City is considering using low sulfur diesel fuel instead. The Fleet Manager determined that 100% biodiesel is too solvent-like for the available engines, wears away parts, gets past rings and contaminates the lubricating oil. There may be a biodiesel quality-control issue. **Diversion rate:** The State calculated that Berkeley diverted 53% of generated waste in calendar year 2003. Farrell distributed draft 2-year extensions of contracts for Ecology Center and Community Conservation Centers. This leaves time for new contracts to be prepared and bid after completion of the solid waste plan.
10. Future Agenda Items: The next meeting is scheduled for April 25. Agenda items will include the solid waste management plan, the 2006-07 budget, the Zero Waste plan, accessible meeting location, and the polystyrene report to Council.
11. Adjourn: M/S Blachman/Jensen to adjourn; carried 6/0/0 at 9:20 pm.