



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, June 27, 2005
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street

Chairman Peter Schultze-Allen called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present:

Steen Jensen, Peter Schultze-Allen, Carrie Sprague, David Tam.

Commissioners absent:

Sankor Sridaran (approved leave); Susan Blachman; Jay Miyazaki

Staff: Tom Farrell, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: Mary Lou Van Deventer and Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; Sara MacKusick and Jeffrey Belchamber of Community Conservation Center (CCC); Mark Gorell, Daniel Maher and Dave Williamson of Ecology Center; Steve Sherman of Applied Compost Consulting; Dan Sicular and Charlie Sax of ESA.

2. Comments from the Public: Dave Williamson introduced Daniel Maher, who will replace him as operations manager of the Ecology Center recycling program. Mr. Maher previously worked for a similar collection program at TriCity Economic Development in Union City. Dan Knapp visited Monterrey's "dirty MRF" and urges Berkeley to continue source-separating instead.

3. Announcements: Commissioner Fred Dodsworth resigned because he is working as a reporter which is a conflict of interest. Berkeley was recognized as the third most sustainable U.S. City by the SustainLane organization (www.sustainlane.com)

4. Approval of the minutes of the May 23, 2005 Commission meeting: It was M/S/C Tam/Sprague to approve the minutes as corrected. 4/0/0,

5. Approval of Agenda: It was M/S/C Tam/Jensen to approve the agenda, 4/0/0.

6. Old Business:

- a. **Solid Waste Management Plan:** Commissioners discussed the Consultant's recommendations for mandatory residential weekly organics collection, biweekly refuse collection, construction debris management and site redesign. Under the current schedule, the City Manager would forward the Commission's recommendations to Council in October. All present discussed the meaning, advisability, precedents, enforcement and presentation of requiring participation in organics collection. Construction debris transfer at the existing facility is a short-term solution, but not cost-effective and no control of highest and best use of materials. The proposed facility will have sufficient space for an efficient line. Sherman suggested exploring its role in disaster debris planning. The City Public Works engineer concurred with the consultant's cost estimate of \$23 million with

delays and soft costs increasing it to \$30 million. Financing options, potential revenue generation, and public ownership were discussed.

- b. **Commission report on Reuse of Polystyrene Packaging:** At the request of the City Manager's office, Staff re-wrote this report as an information item for the July 12 agenda, keeping most of the content but clarifying financial implications. It was MSC Steen/Tam to approve the report for the Chair's final review and signature. 4/0/0.
 - c. **Status of Commission communications to Council:** The Commission had four council reports in May and June. The budget item requesting more support for implementing the 75% goal was not submitted because staff found the City Manager's budget includes \$300,000 toward an additional truck and crew in FY 2007. At their May 10 meeting, Council concurred with the Commission's recommendation and approved 2-year contracts for Ecology Center, CCC and Urban Ore. In addition, on May 10, Council considered the Commission's FY 06 and 07 biennial Budget Recommendation and Refuse Fund Study Recommendation and referred them to the budget process, with no staff report. At their June 14 meeting Council approved maintaining the Solid Waste Commission separately from the Public Works Commission, as the Commission recommended.
 - d. **Status of Division Budget:** Farrell reported that the budget year and the budget ran dry together. At their June 14 meeting, Council passed the Refuse Rate resolution, which increased most rates by 8 percent.
7. Staff Reports: Farrell spoke at the United Nations Environment Day conference in San Francisco and was well received. Grover landscaping, the organic waste contractor, cannot accept more food waste than it is receiving now until they can reconstruct and recapitalize their processing operation. This will require a new contract with them. The transfer station has a problem with liquid from the food waste because a drain was installed on a slope. The drain will be replaced.
8. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates: The next meeting will be July 25 at the North Berkeley Senior Center. There will be no meeting in August. Future agenda items include the NCRA Video, Commission name change, and quarterly reports.
9. Adjourn: It was M/S/C/ to adjourn at 9:15 pm.

Peter Schultze-Allen, Chair, Solid Waste Management Commission