



**MINUTES**  
**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**  
**Monday, October 24, 2005**  
**North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Solid Waste Management Division

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

1. Roll Call:

**Commissioners present:** Susan Blachman, Asa Dodsworth, Steen Jensen, Peter Schultze-Allen, Carrie Sprague, David Tam

**Commissioners absent:** Sankor Sridaran, Jay Miyazaki

**Staff:** Tom Farrell, Peter Holtzclaw,

**Members of the Public:** Jeff Belchamber, Sara MacKusick, Community Conservation Center; Daniel Maher, Ecology Center; Mary Lou Van Deventer, Urban Ore; Frederick Douglass, Solid Waste Management Division employee.

2. Comments from the Public: Van Deventer presented a 10-minute video produced by Weyerhaeuser on the detrimental effects single stream mrf's have had on its paper processing.

3. Announcements: Tam pointed out a Peninsula Times article on Zero Waste, as Palo Alto is seeking consulting rfp for services. Tam also mentioned that the Potrero Hills Landfill's proposed expansion is embroiled in at least one lawsuit.

4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 26, 2005 Commission meeting: It was M/S/C Sprague/Jensen to approve the minutes as corrected . 6/0/0. (*corrected date and MLVD's name; Jensen would like to change his abstention to a yes in the previous meeting's vote on the Commission name change, Holtzclaw to review rules on this*)

5. Approval of Agenda: It was M/S/C Blachman/Sprague to approve the agenda. 6/0/0.

6. Old Business:

**Solid Waste Management Plan:** The SWMP Update discussion continued among the commission, staff and the public. A few concerns were raised by commissioners and the public. The first was the issue of Highest and Best Use. Farrell suggested a Policy Section where Highest and Best Use can be highlighted as a substantial policy issue that will be addressed in the future. Schultze-Allen wanted any specific reference to an MSW composting facility out of the report, or at least put into a section on Conversion Technologies. There was also a general agreement that the wording needed to show that any useful equipment would be used in the new facility – “redesigning” the facility vs. “rebuilding” it. The commission will seek to vote whether to agree with the staff report or to write its own in the November meeting.

**Changing Commission Name to Zero Waste:** The Commission continued its discussion of changing its name to the Zero Waste Commission. Biggest issue: Highest and Best Use definition. Holtzclaw will email various definitions for the commission to consider, with the goal to finalize at the November meeting, as well as see if the definition from the Plastics Task Force be used. There seemed consensus that the definition is somewhat elusive and dependent on the time/era that the phrase is defined within.

**Precautionary Principle:** It was M/S/C Blachman/Sprague 6/0/0 to approve the draft Precautionary Principle document.

**“Dump & Pick” Operations at C&D facilities:** Urban Ore described low-tech hand sorting operations from various facilities, and how it could be utilized here in Berkeley.

Plastic bags, the single stream workshop, and the NCRA video were tabled for future meetings.

7. Staff Reports: None. Dodsworth requested Holtzclaw to look into any interim potential for placing C&D recycling activities on the north area of the site, where containers are presently stored.
8. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates: Two items for the November meeting will be the Solid waste Management Plan and the Commission name change. Two other items will be the NCRA video presentation at the beginning of the next meeting, and a general discussion by Urban Ore on their floor sorting techniques.
9. Adjourn: It was M/S/C Sprague/Tam to adjourn at 9:10 pm. 6/0/0

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Peter Schultze-Allen, Chair, Solid Waste Management Commission