



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, March 27, 2006
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7: 05 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Susan Blachman (7:15 arrival), Asa Dodsworth (7:30 arrival), Jay Miyazaki, Peter Schultze-Allen, Carrie Sprague, David Tam (8:05 arrival), Steen Jensen, Nashua Kahil

Commissioners absent: none.

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw

Members of the Public: Mark Gorrell and Daniel Maher, Ecology Center; Nancy Gorrell (CCC); Dan Knapp and Mary Lou Van Deventer (Urban Ore); Bill Schreeder (MRI); H. Gans, Debra Kaufmen and Hilary Theisen (StopWaste); Tian Xu; Natalie Pollard (UCB).

2. Comments from the Public:

- Dan Knapp wants to let commissioners know Urban Ore is working on possible site plans for the Berkeley solid waste center. Also refers commissioners to an article on single stream recycling in Resource Recycling.
- Mary Lou Vandeventer from Urban Ore lets commissioners know she has been elected Northern California Recycling Association President. NCRA will vote on the proposed Sunol compost facility in April.

Comments from Commissioners:

- Commissioners would like to see the agenda note which items require action, plus note which council members appointed each commissioner.

3. Announcements

- NCRA's "Introduction to Recycling" is being held 4/24-4/26 in San Francisco – go to NCRA's website (ncrarecycles.org) for more information.

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from February 24, 2006: M/S Schultze-Allen/Sprague to approve the 2/24 minutes as written. Approved 3/0/2.

5. Approval of Agenda: M/S Schultze-Allen/Miyazaki to approve the agenda, including Urban Ore's C&D discussion if time allows. Approved 5/0/0.

6. Sunol Discussion: StopWaste/MRI presented the case for support of a proposed 600 ton-per-day composting facility in Sunol. Commissioners weighed the goal of increasing composting capacity in Alameda County with local community opposition. This was a very long discussion, with staff members from the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and representatives from MRI, Inc. presented the case for the facility. Jensen wanted to have input from opponents, or at least more time to research the opposition's case, before having the commission vote to support the proposal, or vote recommending

City Council support the proposal. Copies of the Final EIR were distributed. Relevant information can be had on StopWaste.org website, and searching for the opposition's website can be found by typing in "Sunol compost" into an internet search engine. Commissioners will research the proposal on their own and come prepared to vote at the next commission meeting.

7. Old Business

a. Rates: Holtzclaw presented preliminary information about proposed FY07 collection rates increasing by 15%-20%, with 5% of the increase going towards a fund specified just for future capital needs (essentially the site rebuild). Miyazaki responded that he would not support such a large increase, especially when so much of the refuse fund is "raided" from non-solid waste entities in the City. Other commissioners expressed concerns about the size of the increase. Holtzclaw will bring detailed information for commissioners to vote on in the April meeting.

b. Zero Waste Policies: Jensen wanted an update on various Zero Waste programs and policies. Holtzclaw responded on four basic components – C&D Ordinance, now being drafted; weekly organics/possible biweekly refuse/possible residential cart system; site rebuild; and mandatory commercial recycling ordinance. General timeline: C&D Ordinance before Council 5/23; site rebuild and collection programs will receive council direction in Fall '06; commercial ordinance will follow in early 2007.

8. Santa Clara Take Back Initiative:

- Schultze-Allen informed the commission of a take back initiative on various commercial/E-Waste items proposed in Santa Clara County. Given the time, discussion of this was tabled.

9. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates:

- Justin Lehrer presentation - May
- Sunol Compost Plant decision - April
- Budget - April
- Universal Waste - Summer
- Urban Ore and Construction and Demolition Recycling - May
- Permaculture - Summer

10. Adjourn: M/S Schultze-Allen/Jensen to adjourn at 9:13 p.m. Carried 8/0/0