



Department of Public Works
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, April 24, 2006
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7: 20 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Susan Blachman (7:19 arrival), Asa Dodsworth (7:18 arrival), Peter Schultze-Allen, David Tam (9:10 arrival), Steen Jensen, Nashua Kahil

Commissioners absent: Jay Miyazaki, Carrie Sprague

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw, Tom Farrell

Members of the Public: Daniel Maher (Ecology Center); Dan Knapp and Mary Lou Van Deventer (Urban Ore); Bill Schreeder (MRI); Frederick Douglas, CoB refuse driver; H. Gans, Debra Kaufmen and Hilary Theisen (StopWaste - ACWMA).

2. Comments from the Public & Commissioners:

- Dan Knapp wants to let commissioners know NCRA unanimously approved Sunol proposal (see Old Business below).

3. Announcements

Tom Farrell announced his retirement – his last day is 5/5/06. This ends 12 years of service as the City of Berkeley’s Manager of Solid Waste and Recycling, which included the addition of bi-weekly plant debris collection from residents, great expansion into commercial organic/food waste recovery, and the addition of a second loading pit at the transfer station. Farrell’s career spans 21 years in solid waste and recycling, and 33 years in various public works management. The ZWC unanimously passed a Resolution to commend Tom Farrell for his career and efforts in Berkeley (5-0-0) as follows:

“In the wake of Tom Farrell retiring, effective 5/5/06, the Zero Waste Commission unanimously commends his work and career in the City of Berkeley. His efforts have included bringing plant debris collection to City residents, and his sound management has set a solid foundation for the City to move towards 75% diversion and eventually Zero Waste.”

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from March 27, 2006: M/S Dodsworth/Kalil to approve the 3/27 minutes w/addition from Blachman to add Community Choice Aggregation to future agenda items. Approved 5/0/0.

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

6. Old Business

a. Sunol Valley Composting Facility. Discussion continued on the proposed composting facility in the Sunol Valley. Schultze-Allen commented on the NCRA discussion, and

the unanimous decision to support from that body. Eventually, M/S Schultze-Allen/Dodsworth to support the project. Passed 5/0/0 as follows:

“The Zero Waste Commission unanimously supports the proposed compost facility to be jointly implemented by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority and Materials Recovery, Inc. in the Sunol Valley region. The proposed facility brings substantial benefits to the County, including but not limited to:

- Increased compost processing capacity;
- Environmentally sound waste recycling processes;
- Cutting edge composting technology;
- New manufacturing employment;
- High quality compost for the regional marketplace;
- Helping Berkeley meet its climate change goals, as composting has been shown to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases;
- Highest and best use of composted materials.

The Commission goes on to note that, as it will serve as a guiding model for any future such proposed operations, the Sunol Facility must satisfy the concerns both of involved agencies and of a substantial portion of the residents of the surrounding areas. The Commission commends both the Authority and MRI for their current efforts towards the mitigation of outstanding issues, and trusts that such efforts will vigorously continue.”

b. Budget/Rates: Holtzclaw presented detailed budgets for each department within the Solid Waste Management Division. The City is now proposing an 8% rate increase, which will mean a projected revenue base of about \$28million for FY07, and an expense projection of approximately \$24.25 million, not including the \$3.25 million in expenses for the street sweeping operation funded from refuse rates. M/S Kalil/Blachman to support the proposed budget and rate structure. Passed 4-1-0 (Dodsworth opposes, based district 3 rates becoming equal to districts 1 & 2).

“The Zero Waste Commission endorses the proposed FY07 Budget for the Solid Waste Management Division. The proposed budget includes an 8% increase on residential collection rates, which the Commission concludes is necessary to cover both increased and outstanding expenses. However, the Commission does have some pressing areas of concern, including:

- Expenses that are not being met with rate revenues. Specifically, the Division’s revenues supports more than \$3 million for street sweeping operations, which does not have corresponding rate revenue;
- Indirect Costs, which the Division pays for city support services, are not well-defined. As the Division works to ensure its operations are operating at peak efficiency, the Commission expects other divisions that Solid Waste supports are similarly looking to maximize efficiencies;

- Further budget analysis is required to ascertain the City’s ability to fund or bond the design/engineer/build aspects of the 2nd & Gilman site renovation, estimated to cost \$30 million.”

c. C&D Ordinance Holtzclaw presented proposed wording for a Construction and Demolition Debris Ordinance. Essentially, commercial projects that are \$100,000 or more will be required to divert 50% of their waste stream (100% for concrete and asphalt streams). Single-family homes are exempt until the City rebuilds its MRF to handle C&D material. The resolution will go before Council in early June. **M/S** Schultze-Allen/Tam as follows:

“The Zero Waste Commission endorses the proposed Construction and Demolition (“C&D”) Ordinance. The ordinance will be a cornerstone in the City’s attempt to achieve 75% diversion by 2010 and Zero Waste by 2020 by targeting C&D materials for sorting and recycling as opposed to land filling.

Passed 4-1-0 (Dodsworth opposed, based on his preference to make builders/demolishers obtain a bond to cover potential fines of non-compliance).

7. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates:

- Justin Lehrer presentation - May
- Universal Waste - Summer
- Urban Ore and Construction and Demolition Recycling - May
- Permaculture – May
- Volume rates – Summer

8. Adjourn: M/S Schultze-Allen/Jensen to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. Carried 5/0/0