



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
Monday, May 22, 2006
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Steen Jensen, Jay Miyazaki, Peter Schultze-Allen (7:30 arrival), Carrie Sprague, David Tam,

Commissioners absent: Susan Blachman, Asa Dodsworth, Nashua Kalil

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: Sam Arons, Lisa Everett, Daniel Maher and Martin Bourke (all of Ecology Center); Dan Knapp and Mary Lou Van Deventer (Urban Ore); Jeff Belchamber and Sara MacKusick (Community Conservation Center), Rory Baake and Justin Lehrer (StopWaste).

2. Comments from the Public

Mary Lou Van Deventer offered to make a presentation at a future meeting about cities reducing their dependence on refuse fees. Dan Knapp described studies Urban Ore would like to do at the City of Berkeley Transfer station: sort construction debris boxes to determine content and value, determine how much more they could salvage with another vehicle and two workers, and a value study of the materials they salvage.

3. Announcements and Commissioner Comments

- Peter Holtzclaw is the Acting Division Manager.
- David Tam announced that the Alameda County Waste Management Board will reschedule to September 27 their vote on certification of the EIR for the regional composting facility in Sunol. Holtzclaw reported the Commission's resolution on this topic is at the Clerk's office and will be transmitted to Council at their June 20 meeting, in letter format, as a "communication". Commissioners discussed providing a follow-up item to Council, as an information item, closer to the September 27 vote.
- Martin Bourke announced creation of California Product Stewardship Council, modeled on one in Washington State. Information will be part of a future Universal Waste agenda item.
- Levy announced the California Resource Recovery Association annual statewide conference will be in San Jose, August 6-9.
- Van Deventer announced that the Northern California Recycling Association (NCRA) will meet July 20 at Urban Ore, including a tour at 4 pm and a meeting at 7 pm.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 24, 2006: M/S Schultze-Allen/Tam to approve the minutes as corrected. Approved 5/0/0.

5. Approval of Agenda: Schultze-Allen asked to postpone item 7, the Santa Clara Take-Back initiative. The presentations by Dodsworth and Knapp were rescheduled. It was M/S Miyazaki/Schultze-Allen to approve the agenda. Approved 5/0/0.
6. Presentation: Justin Leher and Rory Baake of Stopwaste.Org presented the completed study of recycling – based businesses in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, what impacts their viability, and what cities are doing to retain them. Key elements are the increasing cost of labor, energy and transportation; increasing land values providing incentive to sell and move; rezoning of industrial land; incompatible development encroaching on industrial land, and obtaining feedstock to make their products. Recycling based businesses are of value to jurisdictions, by using waste products and creating jobs, but cities aim their retention and outreach efforts elsewhere. Loss of such businesses disrupts a network of suppliers of recyclable materials, and users of the products. The full report is available from Justin@Stopwaste.org. Land Use Report: Rory Baake and Justin Leher from StopWaste presented the results of a study of recycling-based businesses (RBB) in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties to determine the health of the companies, their ties throughout the community, the businesses that depend on them for feedstock, products or disposal, and the extent to which communities are acting to retain these businesses. Commissioners expressed interest in having a study for Berkeley
7. Staff and Contractor Reports:

Zero Waste Plan: Holtzclaw reported that the Zero Waste Plan is moving forward as discussed last month. Ecology Center Report: Daniel Maher reported that Ecology Center has focused on re-routing and making other changes to improve collection efficiency and customer service. To determine the cost of sorting each type of material, EC calculated their bottle and can sorting costs by the number of containers for each material, rather than the more usual “cost per ton” Eliminating the weight factor results in a smaller spread of sorting costs by material although the cost of sorting glass is still somewhat higher than plastic and aluminum. Adding plastic containers to the mix increasing the overall sorting costs because they sometimes clog the feeder, and they add volume without much material. The 20 – year-old sorting system was not designed to include plastic, and should be replaced. Sorting inefficiencies, and poaching, result in negative net revenue for bottles/cans. E.C. sent 8500 surveys to tenants of small apartment buildings eligible for EC pickup.

Community Conservation Center: Sara MacKusick distributed reports. Financial projections are on target. She is concerned about tons not increasing, but suggested that this was partly due to plastic replacing glass, and newspapers reducing their paper use. Levy discussed the quarterly tonnage report from Jan-March 2006. Organics brought in by the public increased 21% over the same quarter in FY 2005. Residential refuse from self-haul also increased.
8. Future Agenda Items: Suggested items include presentation by the Urban Ore “Outside Trader”, Implementing Zero Waste, Community Choice Aggregation and Possible new rate structures
9. Adjourn: It was M/S Schultze-Allen/Tam to adjourn at 9:39. Approved 5/0/0.