



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, September 25, 2006
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street**

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7: 25 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Blachman, Dodsworth, Jensen, Miyazaki,

Commissioners absent: Kalil, Schultze-Allen, Tam

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw, Tania Levy

Members of the Public: Daniel Maher and Mark Gorrell (Ecology Center), Dan Knapp, and Mary Lou Van Deventer (Urban Ore), Kelley McKanna- student, Val Peters of the Del Norte Solid Waste Management Task Force, Carrie Sprague, former commissioner.

2. (Combined with # 9 a)

3. Comments from the Public: Dan Knapp distributed a draft outline of two studies Urban Ore has proposed at the Transfer Station: 1) content and feasibility of hand-sorting debris boxes from construction sites and 2) ability to increase recovery of reusables with additional staff and truck.

4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments: none

5. Commending Retired Commissioner Carrie Sprague: Chairman Jensen presented Ms. Sprague with a framed certificate and read a resolution commending her service. Ms. Sprague cautioned the Commission to maintain the economic integrity of the program, while pursuing Zero Waste.

6. Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 28, 2006: M/S Miyazaki/Blachman to approve the minutes as corrected to add the text of the resolution commending Ms. Sprague to item 9, and to change item 7b to note that Jensen (not Schultze-Allen) distributed the draft Sunol resolution. Approved 4/0/0.

7. Approval of Agenda: M/S Jensen/Dodsworth, 4/0/0 to delete item 8a, Report from Zero Waste Commission, to combine items 2 and 9a relating to the Ecology Center's education programs, and to take up that item following agenda approval.

Items 2 and 9a - Presentation of multi-family capture rate study and mixed paper campaign:

Portia Sinnott is under contract to the Ecology Center to manage a year-long grant from ACWMA for a project designed to capture more residential mixed paper for recycling. The campaign theme is "Grab it, Bag it, Curb it." Their capture rate study examined the refuse and recycling setouts of 59 small multi-family properties, randomly selected

throughout Ecology Center recycling routes. Although participation was high, half the paper and containers generated by each property was still in the trash. This multi-family capture rate is consistent with the findings for Berkeley residents during the Cash-for-Trash promotion. The Ecology Center calculates that recycling one additional full bag of paper per household per week will divert most of the paper remaining in residential waste.

Ms. Sinnott showed the PSAs created by Berkeley High School students for use in the campaign. The PSAs will be shown on BTV and possibly other outlets. Billboards with the campaign theme are now installed on city refuse trucks; large grocers are printing the campaign art on paper shopping bags, and smaller retailers will be given enough small printed bags to last 4 weeks. Each residence will receive magnetized post cards or door hangers. Curbside drivers are already finding paper setouts in campaign bags. Ecology Center will provide quarterly reports on the campaign's progress. Blachman suggested ways to publicize and collaborate with other organizations, and asked for the climate change effect of the additional recycling.

8. Old Business: Update Council items and the Sunol Resolution

- a. Report from Zero Waste Subcommittee: Postponed to next meeting.
- b. Holtzclaw reported that the Primer will be presented to Council in January. This timing separates it from the bond measures on the November ballot. Meanwhile, a recent legal decision (Bighorn Case) requires municipalities to use commercial and residential refuse collection fees specifically for services to those segments of the community. Staff is reviewing the city's refuse structure to determine how to meet this requirement. Staff still intends to do weekly residential organics by the end of summer, 2007. However, new residential recycling carts and trucks may not be ready at the same time.
- c. Sunol Resolution: The Commission's Sunol resolution will be on the Council October 24 agenda as a consent item.

Mary Lou Van Deventer reported that the Northern California Recycling Association invited Steve Bloom to their September meeting. Bloom had represented the Sierra Club's Tri-Valley Group opposing the Sunol Compost Facility, and he was a principal author of the voter-approved Measure D 2000, an amendment of the County charter that regulates land use. He stated that Measure D 2000 would support a non-landfill-based facility only on a large agriculturally zoned parcel. Waste Management, Inc. has a permit for a compost facility at its landfill but would be unlikely to build one without either market competition or a higher financial incentive than the 10% profit expected from a composting venture. The Alameda County Recycling Board purchased land that would be suitable for composting except for the fatal flaw of not having a reliable water supply.

9. New Business

- b. Participating in the Budget Process: Miyazaki has set up a meeting with the Public Works Department's Senior Budget Analyst to discuss the FY 2008 budget process.

10. Staff reports and Legislative update: Levy reported on recycling-related legislation that was recently signed or awaiting the Governor's signature. Holtzclaw is issuing RFPs for landfill disposal and for sorting of construction / demolition material. He expects to divert 50-200 tons per day of CD waste by having it hauled to a sorting facility off-site. If successful, this system could continue, but will not impede letting of the RFP for site rebuild.

11. Future agenda items:

- a. Universal Waste (November)– with focus on what residents can do.
- b. Budget Process
- c. Permaculture presentation arranged by Dodsworth (October)
- d. Zero Waste Subcommittee
- e. Update on weekly food waste collection (January)

12. Adjourn: M/S Blachman/Dodsworth 4/0/0 to adjourn at 9:25.