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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES**  
**ZERO WASTE COMMISSION**  
**Monday, March 26, 2007 7:00 PM**  
**North Berkeley Senior Center**  
**1901 Hearst Street, Health Room**

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. with a quorum.

1. Roll Call:  
**Commissioners present:** Jensen, Kalil, Blachman, Miyazaki, Schultze-Allen , Tam (8:00)  
**Commissioners absent:** Dodsworth, Sadigh  
**Staff:** Peter Holtzclaw, Tania Levy  
**Members of the Public:** Daniel Maher, Martin Bourque, and Mark Gorrell of Ecology Center; MaryLou VanDeventer and Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; Jeff Belchamber, Nancy Gorrell, and Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Centers; Aarib Savion of Team Zero Waste, and Val Peters of Zero Waste Del Norte.
2. Comments from the Public:  
Dan Knapp reported he and MaryLou going to Australia to visit zero waste community facilities. MaryLou reported that March 27 NCRA meeting tomorrow was going to focus on sustainability measures.
3. Announcements and Commissioner Comments:  
Tania Levy reminded commissioners to fill out Form 700 and return them to her as soon as possible. Schultze-Allen noted global warming planning in progress, in Berkeley and other cities. Blachman is on the list-serve and receives emails from Berkeley Kitchen Democracy, which frequently addresses recycling issues. She suggests City staff be aware of this forum. Kalil announced setting date for upcoming Facility Rebuild Subcommittee, including reaching out to other City commissions for formal liaison identification.
4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from February 20 and 26, 2007: Levy reported the minutes were not complete for these dates and requested they be pushed to next meeting date. Commissioners agreed and reminded that minutes should use bold typeface to highlight motions and summary of actions.
5. Approval of Agenda: **M/S Schultze-Allen/Blachman to approve agenda**

6. Old Business

- a. Activities toward 75% goal: Holtzclaw reported progress on request for proposal (RFP) for Proposition 218 (the “*Bighorn*” case) rate study, but looks like a consultant will not be selected until Summer 2007 and get study done until October of 2007. This means that dates for Organics rollout and other programs will be also be delayed.
- b. Budget and Refuse Rates: Holtzclaw reported on moving forward with contract extensions for the Ecology Center, CC and Urban Ore for one year. These will roll into long-term contracts after the *Bighorn* study and rate analysis allows new rates to be set. City’s organics program, operations for new routes, staffing, and capital expenditures for new equipment including split carts will follow.

At 7:45, Jensen left the meeting, and Kalil (Vice Chair) took over the Chair functions.

7. Facility Rebuild – Construction & Demolition (C&D) processing options and Goals: Holtzclaw reviewed discussion of rebuild to date and impact of implementing C&D diversion in advance of rebuild. Site is very constrained with resulting safety issues. Other facilities, such as Davis Street, have far larger areas to work with. Goals include doing as much as possible on site, such as seeking to pull out as many reusables as is practical, and then have a contractor take rest, including dealing with any organic waste that can be pulled from debris. Another goal is to not allow use of C&D debris as alternative daily cover (ADC). The Division would create a Request for Proposal (RFP) and seek bids. No timeline is set as of yet, but staff will report at next meeting.
8. Legislative Update: Levy passed out handout of current bills and reported on a number underway on waste and toxics.
  - a. Pharmacy bills, requiring them to accept and collect via a return center for drugs and other items, and then do proper disposal (including one from Silicon Valley).
  - b. Adding of computers to electronic waste law; problems with incentives for shredding and recycling instead of reuse
  - c. AB729 Mullin, regarding methods and systems to count donations of computers to non-profit organizations who will use or repair them.
  - d. AB548, regarding two multi-family recycling bills under discussion, providing \$15 million to cities for containers.
  - e. Bill by Padilla suggesting raising State diversion mandate from 50% to 75%; specifies reduction, recycling, and composting; ADC not allowed to count toward new 25%
  - f. Statewide mandate regarding non-biodegradable items
  - g. Reduction of chemical dumping
  - h. Producer take-back issues and potential bills to address packaging
  - i. AB32 from 2006 – ACTION regarding implementation of Greenhouse Gas and organics at Air Resources Board; Tam notes that there is an overestimation of methane capture at landfills (see Item #9).

Next meeting may include ZWC action. Tam pointed to StopWaste version of bills available online with links.

9. Greenhouse Gas Impacts of Organics in Landfill – report from workshop:  
Levy discussed anaerobic issues and methane production. A dry ton of food waste creates methane equal to 6 tons of CO2 equivalent. State crediting issues are also a matter of concern. Carbon trading programs seem to provide best opportunity to engage various sectors effectively.

10. Universal Waste – plan workshop, creation of subcommittee:  
Universal waste is term for items deemed unsafe to landfill, but not hazardous to own and handle. Fluorescent lights, switches containing mercury, household batteries and electronics are currently controlled. Levy distributed list of Universal waste disposal services in Berkeley. Community Conservation Center at 2<sup>nd</sup> and Gilman now accepts batteries and lamps. Alameda County Computer Resource began a household electronic pick-up service, free for Berkeley residents. Urban Ore can take switches and capacitors.

Chair Jensen introduced idea of creating a subcommittee that he would be interested in overseeing. Environment Commission deals extensively with toxics, but Toxics Department has no staff capacity to manage Universal waste. Jensen notes that there are many reports that need analysis and policies that could come of the research. No subcommittee was formed at this time, but will be discussed again in future. Item is now placed in future agenda list.

11. Staff Reports: Holtzclaw reported on Division efforts to create performance measures that address multiple goals including mileage reduction, greenhouse gas reduction, and overtime reduction by doing a route consolidation and clarification plan. New software will assist in these necessary efforts.

Holtzclaw estimated City waste to be 100, 000 tons to landfill, 50,000 tons to diversion, and 25-30,000 tons of green waste to a compost facility.

Levy reported that the Gardening Collective had successful compost give-away at the Saturday Farmer's Market, using City compost.

12. Future Agenda Items:

- Climate Action Committee presentation/Greenhouse Gas Reduction Workshop
- Accounting of Waste Diversion/Annual Reporting
- Facility Rebuild Study Contract
- Universal Waste Issues and Obstacles.

13. Adjourn: at 9:00.