



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, August 27, 2007
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7: 15 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Dodsworth, Jensen, Kalil, Miyazaki, Schultze-Allen,

Commissioners observing: Tam, by teleconference.

Commissioners absent: Blackman; Sadigh

Staff: Tania Levy, Wanda Redic

Members of the Public: Dan Knapp and Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore; Sara MacKusick of CCC; Daniel Maher of the Ecology Center, and Merry Mitchell.

2. Comments from the Public: Dan Knapp reported that Del Norte County built a resource recovery park designed by Urban Ore, on 14 acres. Jensen requested pictures at a future meeting.

3. Announcements and Commissioner comments: Miyazaki is pleased that the City Manager's Newsletter featured three recycling topics, but noted that applying food scrap labels to carts before the program started caused some confusion. Tam sent comments to the Planning Commission on behalf of SPRAWLDEF about the zoning overlay. Levy invited commissioners to Wanda Redic's send-off party. She has taken a Recycling Specialist job in Oakland.

4. Approval of Minutes – Tabled

5. Approval of Agenda: MSC Kalil/ Schultze-Allen to approve the agenda. 5/0/0

6. Old Business:

a. Status of Zero Waste Activities: Tabled due to Holtzclaw's absence Tam requested update on rebuild RFP in September.

b. Residential composting rollout: Redic reported that delivery is underway. Most recipients enthusiastic, but some pails appearing on tipping floor and were recovered. The grant limited delivery to residents with carts. Residents are using the newsletter postcard tear-off to request 32-gallon carts and request exchanges to smaller carts. Tenants of many multi-family buildings are also inquiring. Kalil and Miyazaki have not received pails.

7. Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance: Levy distributed copies of Communication that went to Council on July 17. Commissioners Jensen and Kalil reported on their conversations with merchants. Kalil circulated a draft survey, and noted importance of keeping a paper trail

of our research activities and identifying concerns. Merchants are responding positively because they are being asked first. Monterrey Market is using compostable produce bags, but supermarkets interviewed are not planning to use compostables. Paper bag manufacturer reports all tall handled bags sold in Northern California will be 100% recycled content. Kalil will attend a meeting of merchant associations on September 19, suggested holding a subcommittee meeting at lunchtime when business members can attend. Discussion of date for draft ordinance to Council. A lawsuit has been filed against Oakland, calling for a full EIR. Levy to make appointment with the City Attorney to review ordinance options.

MacKusick reported that the Environmental Commission formed a subcommittee on plastic bag reduction, and is keenly interested. Schultze-Allen attended in June. They expect Zero Waste Commission to take the lead and requested time in the ordinance process for them to comment.

8. New Business: Rezoning of Manufacturing area to allow Car Dealerships: Knapp distributed a poster by Urban Ore, showing shrinking industrial land in West Berkeley, and the location of reuse industries. Tam concerned about higher land values resulting in higher rents, which recycling and reuse industries could not pay. VanDeventer described reactions to the proposal by local businesses South of Ashby. MS Schultze-Allen/ Kalil to provide comments to the Planning Commission at its September 5 meeting, requesting that the mitigated negative declaration and initial study be revised to incorporate the impacts on the City's municipal environmental services, to consider variances rather than the overlay, and to apply a public use designation to the City's recycling/transfer station property. 5/0/0. Kalil to draft letter.
9. Contractor Reports: Reports were distributed.
 - a. Community Conservation Centers: MacKusick reported continued slight drop in tons, but material prices remaining high. Container sorting system was rebuilt and improved at cost of \$160,000, to reduce processing time and replace worn out components. Construction completed in ten days. Knapp suggested redesigns of drop-off area.
 - b. Ecology Center has reduced tons due to poaching. Poachers sell to Oakland scrap yards that pay higher prices and pay by cash, while CCC pays by check. Purchased two new trucks.
 - c. VanDeventer proposed that Urban Ore also submit and present a quarterly contractor report.
10. Staff reports: Levy distributed the new Reuse Guide. Described work on rate analysis with R3, looking at uses of the Refuse Fund. Tonnage report tabled due to late hour.

Adjourn: MS Schultze –Allen/Dodsworth to adjourn at 9:25.