



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES  
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION  
Monday, November 26, 2007  
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street  
Multi-Purpose Room**

Chairman Steen Jensen called the meeting to order at 7: 00 p.m.

1. Roll Call:

**Commissioners present**, Blachman, Jensen, Kalil, Nava, Tam

**Commissioners absent:** Miyazaki (excused absence), Dodsworth, Sadigh, Schultze-Allen

**Staff:** Claudette Ford, Peter Holtzclaw, Tania Levy

**Members of the Public:** Bernie Lenhoff of Green Waste Recycling Yard/New Life Millworks; Phoebe Watts and Lilei Anderson, League of Women Voters; Kent Lewandowski of Sierra Club; Mary Lou Van Deventer and Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; Sara MacKusick and Nancy Gorell of CCC; Daniel Maher and Mark Gorell of the Berkeley Ecology Center; Val Peters of Matter of Trust; Arthur Boone of Total Recycling Associates; and Berkeley residents Helen Burke, Kitty McClean, Dave Williamson

2. Comments from the Public: Bernie Lenhoff introduced his business, Green Waste Recycling in Richmond, which specializes in milling urban trees to usable lumber instead of shredding them for mulch. Val Peters distributed a letter to the Commission, asking for support for a bioremediation space for oil-soaked hair mats, reported that the Cosco oil spill clean-up firm, O'Brien, mistakenly incinerated the oil soaked hair mats from San Francisco instead of storing them for cleaning with mushrooms, as planned. She asked if City could facilitate collection of hair from salons to create mats in case of future spills. Knapp discussed a Design Charette.
3. Announcements and Commissioner comments: Kalil praised results of residential food scraps project, noting success when we work together. Tam announced no progress filling recycling board vacancies. Jensen asked group to consider nominations for Commission officers.
4. Approve Minutes: M/S Tam/Kalil to approve the minutes of the October 22 meeting as corrected. 4/0/1.
5. Approve Agenda: M/S Kalil/Blachman to approve the agenda. 5/0/0.
6. Old Business:
  - a. Draft Plastic Bag Ordinance: Kalil summarized process so far – understanding the issues, talked with and surveyed merchants and merchants' associations. Found many already planning to eliminate plastic bags, and are enthusiastic. The

goal is to eliminate plastic carry out bags and associated environmental impacts, reduce use of paper carryout bags, and to encourage use of reusable bags. Will complete, take to CEAC and City Attorney.

- b. Status of rebuilding Transfer Station: Holtzclaw reported that City is preparing an RFP for a feasibility study for the rebuild, before an RFP for design/build. The study will look at land use issues that may affect rebuild, such as the railroad grade and Gilman / I80 interchange, operational issues, cost and financing. Tam asked if the Commission could review the RFP. Releasing the RFP in January, study could be complete as early as September. Sierra Club representative Kitty McClean commented that it may be worth raising refuse rates to increase recycling if less pollution

## 7. New Business

- a. Discussion of Construction and Demolition Rubbish sorting Contract – public comment

Kent Lewandowski, representing the Northern California Group of the Sierra Club, thanked Holtzclaw for the two-hour discussion and tour of the transfer station. He wrote to Council opposing the contract because the RFP process was too short, impact of fuel use sending 50,000 tons to Stockton, which is further than the landfill. Local processing is preferred. He urged City to proceed with the rebuild and thinks a 20% cost increase is justified, in order to divert tons from landfill.

Ricky Jackson: has worked for City in refuse collection 13 years. Local 790 supports staff in removing the C&D material to be sorted away from the transfer station because of an acute shortage of space, and safety and health issues. After the transfer station is rebuilt, union members expect to have the work of sorting. John Moore, Sr., is a refuse truck driver employed with City 34 years. He re-emphasized there is no way material could be sorted at the transfer station. The drivers support hauling to Stockton and increasing City recycling rates.

Helen Burke is concerned about the conflict in land use between maximizing sales tax and working toward zero waste goal at the transfer station.

Arthur Boone stated that he used to work as a supervisor at Sanitary Fill, (transfer station in San Francisco) for removal of reusable items. He mistrusts staff and scolded Berkeley for being behind other cities. He believes local sorting is possible.

Commissioner Comments: Jensen suggested monitoring the contract to be sure that materials have highest and best use, and use it as a temporary bridge while transfer station is rebuilt, provided process was legal. Kalil affirmed that the contract is not exclusive, would be willing to have more discussion, but there are only two years before we are supposed to be at 75% diversion. Jensen would involve the broader community in a design. Tam stated that the contract is a major change of policy, therefore he believes Commission review was required, and that an EIR is needed.

Holtzclaw responded that landfill fees are increasing to approximately the cost of Stockton. He appreciates speakers' concerns, but Stockton is not a landfill in

disguise. Others did not bid because of capacity issues, or because they did not have trailers to rent. The contract is not exclusive.

Levy related her conversations with San Joaquin County Air District officials and the inspector of the Tracy biomass facility, where the leftover wood would be burned. They affirm that the plant is tightly controlled, has excellent pollution control equipment, cooperative and proactive owners, and is considered a clean energy source.

M/S Tam/Kalil to extend meeting time to 9:30. 5/0/0.

Claudette Ford, Public Works Director, stated that the transfer station buildings are at the end of their life, and delays are frustrating. Staff did due diligence, and the Purchasing department and City Attorney support the process. The sorting facility and the wood-burning plant are clean facilities. Nevertheless, staff will work with partners, and delayed the report to Council to December 18.

Blachman is committed to having a recommendation to Council December 18. M/S Blachman/Kalil to schedule a special Zero Waste Commission meeting on December 5 with the purpose of coming to agreement on this subject.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm.