



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, February 25, 2008
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street
Workshop Room B, 1st floor

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

1. Roll Call:

Commissioners present: Blachman, Dodsworth, Jensen, Kalil, Nava, Sadigh, Schultze-Allen, Tam (7:25)

Commissioners absent: None

Staff: Peter Holtzclaw, Tania Levy

Members of the Public:

Residents: Lisbeth Shepherd, Phoebe Watts, Joan Starr, Iris Starr, Janet Schneider, Marcy Greenhut (Transportation Commissioner), Kendra Sutherland of Thimmakka Resources;

Organizations/Businesses: Catherine Young of Sustainable Pacific Rim Cities, Bernie Lenhoff from Green Waste Recycling Yard, Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Centers; Mary Lou Van Deventer and Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; and Daniel Maher of the Ecology Center.

2. Comments from the Public: Dan Knapp reported research that early dioxin exposure affects male fertility, and that dioxin can be associated with burning wood. KGO featured Urban Ore in a discussion of Assemblyman Jared Huffman's proposed legislation (AB 2640) phasing out the recycling credit for using green waste as alternative daily cover (ADC) of trash in landfills.

3. Announcements and Commissioner Comments:

Nava announced a pending Council item about Apple Moth spraying in the City and effect upon organic farming. Schultze-Allen announced that Oakland is seeking a Sustainability Coordinator. Announcements of coming events included:

- Northern California Recycling Association's (NCRA) Recycling Update Day on April 1, SF
- NCRA's Introduction to Recycling course, March 10-12, SF
- Green California Summit, Sacramento, April 7-9
- Environmental Purchasing Meeting, Sacramento. April 7
- West Berkeley, Planning Commission special meeting and tour, Saturday, Feb 22, 8:30 AM, starts at 717 Potter Street. Kalil will attend and report any issues of interest to ZWC at the March meeting.

4. Approve Minutes: M/S Tam/ Schultze-Allen to approve November 26, December 5 and January 28 meeting minutes as corrected: 8/0/0. December 5 minutes approved as corrected to add Tam's proposed resolution.

5. Approve Agenda: M/S Schultze-Allen/Blachman to approve the agenda, 8/0/0.

6. Climate Action Plan: Timothy Burroughs, City Sustainability Coordinator, presented the City's *Draft Climate Action Plan*. The goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the City 33% by 2020 and 80% by 2050 while simultaneously preparing for inevitable climate change effects.

There is currently no greenhouse gas data for waste disposal and recycling because of inadequate life cycle analyses. Division staff will work with the staff of Stopwaste to estimate impacts of solid waste activities so these emissions and future benefits can be defined and counted into the next draft of the Plan.

Commissioners and the public commented and discussed the *Draft Plan*, information on greenhouse gas generation, and draft recommendations. Marcy Greenhut, the ZWC liaison from the Transportation Commission, was present and added to the discussion regarding Division – related issues. Workshop comments are summarized on page 3 of these minutes.

The *Draft Climate Action Plan* has a website allowing public review and comment: www.berkeleyclimateaction.org. The public comment period for the *Draft Plan* ends March 7, after which comments will be posted on the City's website.

M/S Jensen/Tam to extend meeting until 10 pm to allow more discussion. 8/0/0

7. Contractor Reports:

- a. Community Conservation Centers and Ecology Center presented their reports for the first and second quarters of FY 2008. Market prices remain high, but that appears to have encouraged poaching of curbside recycling.
- b. Both organizations recently signed new union contracts.
- c. Ecology Center has purchased new trucks, but acquisition of the split carts is postponed due to *Bighorn* rate analysis. Kalil requested that both contractors collaborate on producing a brief report on costs of poaching and potential cost savings through the split carts.

8. Elect Officers:

M/S Schultze-Allen/Tam to elect Nashua Kalil Chair. 8/0/0. After Nava declined nomination, M/S Dodsworth/Jensen to elect Tam Vice Chair 7/0/1 All commissioners offered thanks to Steen Jensen for his dedicated service as Chair during the last two years.

9. Draft Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance:

The City Attorney will review the draft ordinance once staff finalizes cover letter explaining process, definitions and terms. Estimated date for forwarding and review is March 7.

10. Staff Reports: Postponed to the March meeting due to late meeting.

11. Agenda Items and Meeting Dates: A draft agenda for the March meeting will be sent to commissioners along with a draft FY08/09 Commission work plan developed by Chair-elect Kalil. Since the fourth Monday of March is Easter Monday, commissioners agreed to meet March 10, with possibly an additional meeting between then and the next regular meeting scheduled for April 28.

12. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

Attachment: Public Comments on Draft Climate Action Plan

**Summary of Comments from Zero Waste Commissioners and the Public on
the Draft Climate Action Plan**

- Discussion of waste composition data and need to include greenhouse gas impacts of waste and City's waste reduction activities.
- All commissioners stressed the need for the City to make rebuilding the Transfer Station as a Zero Waste Facility a priority.
- The City should study amount of power generation possible on City-owned and other public sites including right-of way power (solar street lights) and reusable energy generation on public buildings.
- Make the bicycle and car share sections stronger.
- The Plan should include actions to engage multi-family buildings in recycling and organics program.
- Create incentives and mandates to get businesses to reduce waste and use reusable packaging and products.
- Specifics of Plan outcomes are missing, including strategy cost/benefit analysis and timelines.
- Promote repair shops as a way to eliminate waste.
- Track recycled materials to their end use to make sure they are used wisely.
- Allow zero putrescibles (organics) to be landfilled.
- Integrate permaculture and local food production.
- Set aside land for waste reduction/material use/composting.
- Look at low tech solutions: example of a windbelt which uses flutter rather than a propeller to capture wind energy at low speeds and is less complex and expensive than windmills.
- Question of the *Draft Plan* including U.C. Berkeley, which it does not, but UCB is working on their own intensive greenhouse gas assessment and strategies, which will be available soon. Staff should work closely with U.C.staff.
- Integrate *Climate Action Plan* with the City's *General Plan*; set priorities and do smaller strategic actions.
- Change building and planning codes that stop us from using conservation technologies like grey water and membrane wind power.
- Densification and "smart growth" with "transit corridors" might mean replacing industry with retail. City should examine the green house gas implications of replacing industry with consumptive uses, and stop the practice of exporting resources and importing product.
- Need for several local Bay Area/Alameda County compost facilities to manage 200 tons per day and more. City should be a leader and identify areas for small-scale composting.
- SW Division should calculate the City's true diversion rate, independent of Countywide adjustment numbers that artificially inflates it. City should pursue ways to increase diversion of the material it controls (City collection and transfer station) from the current 37%.
- Refuse rate structure to be incentive to customers to recycle and compost, while covering fixed City costs.
- Create a program of carbon audits for residences and businesses, allow trading as done for big business.
- Reach out to educate children who can best change family behavior.
- Installation of solar panels should not require an administrative use permit.
- Note jobs created by each strategy.
- Need for community involvement – goals and activities at block and neighborhood levels.
- Add Berkeley Unified School District to the *Draft Plan*, and distributed a list of actions and policies the School District could enact.
- Include water conservation in the plan, to reduce Energy used to pump and clean water.