



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Solid Waste Management Division

MINUTES
ZERO WASTE COMMISSION
Monday, October 27, 2008
North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street
Workshop Room B, 1st floor

Chairwoman Nashua Kalil called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7: 10 p.m.

1. **Roll Call:**

Commissioners present: Blachman (7:25), Dodsworth (7:15), Jensen, Kalil, Kirkpatrick, Nava, Sadigh, Schultze-Allen (7:15), Tam (7:30)

Commissioners absent: none

Staff: Claudette Ford, Public Works Director and Acting Division Manager; Tania Levy, Acting Recycling Manager; Neal deSnoo, Energy Division manager.

Members of the Public: James Lincoln of Lincoln & Associates, Martin Bourque and Daniel Maher of the Berkeley Ecology Center; Sara MacKusick and Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Centers (CCC); Mary Lou Van Deventer and Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; Heather Abrams (Sloan-Vasquez LLC), Leila Khatapoush, and Residents Katie Frohmberg, David Jiber, Vic Kley, and Dilan Roe.

2. **Approve Agenda:** M/S Jensen/Sadigh to approve the modified agenda, 5/0/0.

3. **Comments from the Public:** Sara MacCusick reported a 50-70% drop in prices for recycled plastic, metals and papers between October 1 and 27. Jeff Belchamber distributed a summary report showing price trends from 2005 to present. There is a global drop in demand for recyclables, largely due to reduced manufacturing of products and their packages. Chair Kalil asked if each of the affiliated non-profits could prepare reports and present them at next commission meeting. Dan Knapp of Urban Ore reported that they are purchasing the property at 900 Murray Street, where Urban Ore is located. Vic Kley wanted to know what in the Greenhouse Gas Plan was not complete and what the process was for adoption.

4. **Announcements and Commissioner Comments:**

5. **Approve Meeting Minutes of 9/22/08:** M/S Tam/Schultze-Allen to approve minutes with minor corrections; 8/1/0; Sadigh abstaining due to absence at the meeting.

6. **Draft Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan Workshop:** Neal DeSnoo of the City's Planning Department gave a PowerPoint presentation of the Plan content and process to date. The public comment period has been extended to December 16, 2008 in deference to citizen interest and department review, and is on line at BerkeleyClimateAction.org. Two town-hall style meetings are scheduled October 30 and November 3. Staff expects to bring the completed draft before Council at its January 20, 2009 meeting for a workshop and final consideration.

The presentation to the Commission covered all areas rather than focusing on Zero Waste

actions. Chair Kalil produced a copy of the Palo Alto Climate Plan and noted that its Chapter 7 on Zero Waste included ICLEI model-baseline measurements and reduction targets, asking staff to include these for Berkeley. Also of note was Palo Alto's Chapter 4, City Purchasing, which integrated aspects of Berkeley's existing green purchasing program with the proposed zero waste Extended Producer Responsibility policy resolution.

Levy reported that full implementation of recycling and composting actions listed in the Climate Change Plan would result in estimated greenhouse gas reduction of 43,000 – 60,000 tons per year (CO₂ equivalent) Stopwaste.org expert Debra Kaufman reviewed the calculations with Tim Burroughs, the City's climate change plan coordinator, and these reductions will be included in the final draft.

Public comments suggested adding reuse and repair, highest and best use of materials, and noting indirect costs incurred outside of the City limits. Kley mentioned counting additional fuel costs of driving to the hills, designing new buildings for comprehensive recycling, and using the business licensing process as an opportunity for green marketing. DeSnoo recorded all comments and will forward them to Tim Burroughs, who will follow up with the Commission.

7. **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Subcommittee Report and Proposed Resolution:** Steen Jensen, Emily Sadigh, and Sara MacKusick, (representing the Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC)) presented the latest draft ordinance and Commission report. The subcommittee held publicly noticed meetings on September 15 and October 6, 2008. The City's Purchasing manager and the CEAC have reviewed the draft. The commission thanked Knapp and Van Deventer of Urban Ore for their participation and efforts clarifying the draft ordinance. The Subcommittee will hold an additional meeting on November 3. Commission will review the final draft resolution for action at their regular November 24, 2008 meeting.
8. **Division Update:** Public Works Director Claudette Ford introduced her guest, Mr. James Lincoln of Lincoln & Associates, whom the City retained to recruit the Solid Waste Management Division Manager. Mr. Lincoln previously recruited the City's new Transportation Division Manager.
 - a. **FY 09 Division Workplan Progress and new issues:** Ford reported focusing on tightening up daily operations and an assessment of needs in advance of hiring the Division Manager.
 - b. **Division Manager & Recycling Manager Recruitment:** The City posted the job announcement for Division Manager in October with a goal of January 09 hire. Many good candidates are expected to apply, as has been the case with the Recycling Manager position. The second round of Recycling Manager interviews took place September 29, with Chair Kalil attending as commission presence. Final interviews with Ford will occur over the next weeks, with expectation that an offer will be made shortly.
 - c. **Budget Review/Rate Analysis:** Ford reported that the quarterly budget review meeting with the City Manager next week should clarify budget projections. The Budget Manager and Senior Budget Analyst are working on completion of the rate analysis but do not have a completion date. Commissioners requested an explanation of how rate changes are being addressed given budget implications. Ford reported work on multi-year extensions of contracts with Urban Ore, the

Ecology Center and CCC. Split-cart roll out continues to be uncertain; Ford hopes to be able to proceed early 2009 as part of contract extensions, and will clarify at next commission meeting.

- d. Facility Rebuild: Ford is working with Public Works staff and Tom Padia of StopWaste.org to finalize the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Facility Rebuild Feasibility Analysis. They foresee a two-step process with a request for qualifications (RFQ) followed by a request for proposals from contractors who were selected in the first step. The previous projected posting date of mid-October is postponed. VanDeventer asked if the RFQ would address design only or design-build. Ford explained that a firm with experience in both would be preferable.
 - e. Plastic Bag Ordinance: Levy reported working with Chair Kalil on next steps and refined research for Legal review. Vice Chair Tam has provided additional articles for research. There has been no determination what level of significance will exist for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review. Kalil posited that an initial study will be necessary, perhaps overseen by the City's Planning Department and that the initial study would show there are no negative environmental impacts from the ordinance. Given this determination, a statement of negative declaration could be made and publicly reviewed.¹
 - f. Other Division Business: none
9. **Sakai, Japan Waste Reduction presentation**: Due to time considerations, Sadigh agreed to reschedule her presentation to a future date.
 10. **Future Dates, Upcoming Workshops and Training Opportunities**: Next commission meeting is November 24 and will include quarterly contractor reports and adoption of Extended Producer Responsibility draft ordinance. The Annual Green Gathering event, sponsored by the Ecology Center and the City's Sustainability group is November 20.
 11. **Adjourn**: M/S Schultze-Allen/Dodsworth to adjourn at 9:15 pm.

⁰¹ A Negative Declaration is a "written statement briefly describing the reasons that a project will not have a significant effect on the environment and does not require the preparation of an environmental impact report" (CEQA Handbook). A Negative Declaration presents the findings and states the reasons why the decision maker has concluded that there will be no significant effect. A completed Initial Study must be attached to a Negative Declaration to support the determination of no significant effect. (Kalil)