



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES**  
**ZERO WASTE COMMISSION**  
**Monday, February 22, 2010**  
**North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street**  
**Workshop Room B, 1<sup>st</sup> floor**

Chair Kalil called the meeting to order with a quorum at 7:07 PM

**1. Roll Call:**

**Commissioners present:** Kalil, Jensen, Kirkpatrick, Smartt, Blachman, Moos, Tam, Audrey Anne Gutierrez - Temporary appointment for Ricardo Gomez

**Commissioners absent:** Gomez

**Staff:** Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager; Ken Etherington - Division Manager; Claudette Ford – Public Works Director; Lisa Malek-Zadeh - Senior Budget Specialist; Tania Levy - Analyst.

**Members of the Public:** Martin Bourque and Daniel Maher of the Ecology Center (EC); Jeff Belchamber and Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Center (CCC); Dan Knapp of Urban Ore; Mark and Nancy Gorrell; Adam Heffler

**2. Approve Agenda: Jensen/Kalil M/S/C to approve the agenda 8/0/0**

**3. Comments from the Public:** Dan Knapp presented a utility bill from Sacramento that showed line items and charges for residential recycling and green waste. He also showed an ad regarding Urban Ore's proposal to the City for a redesign of the transfer station. Jeff Belchamber reported that paper prices were up. Martin Bourque stated that Ecology Center's new contract with the City was much simpler to administer.

**4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments:** Kalil reported on the status of the Do Not Mail Registry discussed at the January 25, 2010 commission meeting. She stated that after review of all of the issues, including potential job loss, Council has decided at this point to continue with the Opt-out option for reducing unwanted mail.

**5. Approve Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2010:** Tam asked for a correction from: Tam reported that a coalition of small haulers have appealed the decision of a federal judge regarding intrastate waste transfer and is being reheard on February 18<sup>th</sup> in Vallejo. To: *regarding Solano County Measure E's 95,000 ton per year limit on imports from other counties. Arguments for and against enforcement of Measure E will be heard on February 18 in Vallejo.*

**M/S/C Kalil/Jensen 7/0/1**

**6. Refuse Fund Budget Balancing Alternatives/Deficit Reduction Plan:** Etherington distributed a draft document showing proposed refuse fund balancing options. Some items like reducing overtime and improved C&D supervision have already been implemented. Labor reductions in the BOSS program under Clean Cities was discussed. Up to eight additional holiday closures of the transfer station are being considered. Eliminating a currently vacant weighmaster position is warranted due to reduced volume at the transfer station. Consolidating

all customer service functions of the Division under the 311 system is being proposed. This would involve eliminating two positions and moving one position to revenue collection. Another proposal is to eliminate the Division analyst position. Discussion of grant and program management needs ensued. Ms. Ford suggested that we move-up the March commission meeting date to allow commission input prior to the March 23, 2010 council date. Tam asked for confirmation that \$3 million of Clean Streets program costs comes directly from the refuse fund. Ms. Malek Zadeh confirmed this. Etherington continued with proposals to automate commercial and residential collection and to reduce to single operator routes. New trucks would be purchased from the equipment replacement fund and phased in over time. Potential workforce reductions are being discussed with the Union. Split body co-collection trucks were discussed as well. Etherington reported that RouteSmart routing software is expected in May, which will help with additional route efficiency. Additional revenue proposals included changing the franchise agreement to include recycling in the gross receipt calculations. Additional enforcement of wet waste violations for franchised haulers is also planned. Kalil asked about the actual cost of poaching to the City. A previous quote of \$40,000 a year is likely an under estimate and therefore additional information is needed. Blachman left at 8:30. Etherington explained the need for a new rate structure, as our current model is not compatible with a zero waste goal. There was discussion of how proposition 218 would effect our next move as well as whether to build recycling and composting into the rate, or to call it out as an itemization on the bill.

**Motion to extend meeting 15 minutes: Tam/Kalil M/S/C 7/0/0**

Tam asked that staff make documents available a few days before the meeting whenever possible.

**7. Commercial Recycling – Options for Service:** Etherington reported on the proposal to move commercial recycling to a single stream system. MacKusick stated that the reported savings would come more from changing to single driver trucks, rather than changing to single stream collection. If commercial collection is converted to single stream, this material could be piloted at CCC or sent to an offsite single stream MRF. Kalil suggested that we analyze the full impacts of any of these decisions.

**8. Division Update:** Deferred due to time constraints.

**9. Officer Elections:** Tam commended Kalil for her excellent service as Chair of the Commission. Kalil moved to nominated Steen Jensen as Vice Chair.

**Kalil/Tam M/S/C 7/0/0**

Jensen nominated David Tam as Chair.

**Jensen/Kalil M/S/C 7/0/0**

**10. Topics for future meetings:** Single & Dual stream and other topics to follow  
Tam suggested again that we move the March meeting date up and Secretary Schneider agreed to circulate an alternate date email.

**11. Adjourn: Kalil/Jensen to Adjourn at 9:17 PM M/S/C 7/0/0**