



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES**  
**ZERO WASTE COMMISSION**  
**Monday, February 23, 2009**  
**North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Street**  
**Workshop Room B, 1<sup>st</sup> floor**

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

**1. Roll Call:**

**Commissioners present:** Blachman, Jensen, Kalil, Kirkpatrick, Schultze-Allen, Tam (8:00)

**Commissioners absent:** Nava, Dodsworth

**Staff:** Andy Schneider - Recycling Program Manager; Lisa Malek-Zadeh – Senior Budget Specialist

**Members of the Public:** Martin Bourque and Daniel Maher of the Berkeley Ecology Center (EC); Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Centers (CCC); Dan Knapp and Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore; and Residents Leila Khatapoush, Marilyn McCarthy and Frances Kawamoto

**2. Approve Agenda: M/S Schultze-Allen/Jensen to approve the agenda 5/0/0.**

**3. Comments from the Public:** Dan Knapp reminded the commission that Urban Ore has paid for their own independent master plan for a rebuilt transfer station and asked for a formal review. Leila Khatapoush stated that she has decided to continue her work as the City's contractor for commercial restaurant training.

**4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments:** Schneider reported that Ken Etherington, the new Solid Waste Division manager, had accepted the job offer and would be starting on March 9<sup>th</sup>. Commission requested more information on previous experience at March meeting.

**5. Approve Meeting Minutes of 1/26/09: M/S Schultze-Allen/Steen to approve minutes with change in Dan Knapp's comment about Australian Capitol Territory. Blachman abstained due to her absence at the meeting 4/0/1.**

**6. Refuse Fund/Division Budget Update:** Senior Budget Specialist, Lisa Malek-Zadeh, presented information on the refuse fund in preparation for the Council workshop that was scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup>. She stated that recent adjustments, and deferrals of major expenditures like the transfer station RFP, have contributed to a fund surplus rather than deficit. She stated some of the factors affecting the budget; increased tip fees for at landfills, reduced revenue from recyclables and three years without a collection rate increase. Additional items presented were better salary projection, accounting for the 2012 PERS increase and a built-in 3% CPI inflator. Kalil proposed better overtime projections and to consider moving Clean Cities (street sweeping) from the refuse fund elsewhere. Jensen asked that these fund allocations be more transparent. Blachman asked how it is determined which streets are swept. Schultze mentioned that a stormwater trash capture system may be needed and if those funds would come from refuse or sewer. Malek-Zadeh added that the

funding for the residential split carts, as well as the increased cost of adding weekly organics service residentially, have already been budgeted for. Tam stated that council could consider raising the franchise fees paid by commercial haulers. This could give council the option of a lower residential rate increase. Kalil asked how much of a rate increase the City Manager is proposing. Malek-Zadeh stated that it looked like a 20% increase to residential and commercial rates would be needed to continue to provide the service and to plan for improved programs. Kalil stated that the Commission will remain involved in the rate structure process and will be available for public discussion. Malek-Zadeh asked for more clarification on the role of the commission on this issue.

**7. Election of Commission Officers: M/S Schultze-Allen/Jensen to elect Nashua Kalil Chair. 5/0/0. M/S Schultze-Allen /Jensen to elect Tam Vice Chair 5/0/0.**

**8. Staff Updates:** Staff presented a document that showed the tons generated, diverted and landfilled from three different sectors: Roll-off/Self Haul; Commercial/Multifamily and Residential (1-4 units). This chart only represented a portion of Berkeley's waste stream, but gave an idea of our diversion rates for these sectors. We also discussed the State's new method for calculating diversion rate, which measures pounds per person per day. This new system will be used by the city to calculate our 2007, and subsequent, state reported diversion rates.

**9. Proposed Commission Action Plan:** Kalil proposed that the commission form a sub-committee to advance our own action plan. This sub-committee would focus on the target sectors of multifamily and commercial; the materials that they generate; and the programs and rate structure needed to properly service them. Supplementary funding sources will need to be utilized to make these programs pay for themselves.

**10. Adjourn: M/S Jensen/Kalil to adjourn at 9:10 pm. 5/0/0.**