



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES**  
**ZERO WASTE COMMISSION**  
**Monday, March 28, 2011**  
**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 7:05 PM

**1. Roll Call:**

**Commissioners present:** Jensen, Bartlett, Kirkpatrick, Kalil, Halperin, Saborio, Blachman (7:07), Tam (7:17)

**Commissioners absent:** None

**Staff:** Andrew Clough – Acting Public Works Director, Ken Etherington - Solid Waste Division Manager, Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager, Lisa Malek-Zadeh – Senior Budget Specialist

**Members of the Public:** Martin Bourque, Daniel Maher, Debbie Beyea of the Ecology Center (EC); Sara MacKusick, Jeff Belchamber of Community Conservation Center (CCC); Dan Knapp and Mary Lou Van Deventer of Urban Ore; Tania Levy, Ricky Jackson, Adam Heffler, Paul Hagey.

**2. Approve Agenda: M/S/C Kirkpatrick/Jensen to approve the amended agenda 6/0/0**

**3. Comments from the Public:** Sara MacKusick provided a handout to City Council on the benefits of retaining CCC as the City's MRF and Buyback operator. It mentioned historic and current revenue to the City, as well as low residual, high material quality and convenience of location for collection fleets. Dan Knapp suggested that we consider keeping the Transfer Station open later to accommodate self-haul customers after 4:30 PM. Ricky Jackson had questions about where Ecology Center funds are spent and clarification on the discrepancy between EC's current operating cost and the operational cost of the City assuming residential recycling collection as presented in the Sloan Vazquez report. Martin Bourque responded that EC has provided regular financial documentation to the City throughout the term of each contract and that the City has recently audited and renegotiated EC's contract from cost-plus to a fixed fee. Ricky Jackson also requested information on the status of the franchised haulers and whether we will be assuming commercial collection or possibly raising franchise fees. Edith, former Chair of the Commission on Labor and Ron, new Vice-Chair of the Commission on Labor confirmed that the ZWC had received their March 16th resolution and their concern for the EC workers.

**4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments:** Tam announced that the Northern California Recycling Association's annual update will be held on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Kalil stated that she hoped that staff will attend and provide the Commission with an overview.

**5. Approve Meeting Minutes of Feb. 28, 2011:**

**M/S/C Tam/Halperin to approve the Feb 28, 2011 minutes as amended 8/0/0**

**6. Refuse Fund Budget Presentation:** Lisa Malek-Zadeh, Administrative Fiscal Services Manager for the Department of Public Works, presented a PowerPoint on the refuse fund budget. She explained that Public Works is a small part of the General Fund budget and gave an overview of General Fund expenditures and revenue sources. She explained how General Fund revenue is expected to continue to decline, bringing our projected General Fund deficit to \$12.5 million in FY 2012. The Refuse Fund forecast projects an \$8.8 million deficit by FY 2013, if needed Capital improvements are made, and no balancing measures are implemented. Refuse Fund balancing options, including operational efficiencies and renegotiated contracts, were overviewed. If these balancing measures are implemented, the Refuse Fund deficit is expected to reduce to \$380,000 by FY 2013. The Commission requested additional budget details in order to fully understand the budget situation. Ms. Malek-Zadeh also overviewed the Clean Cities Program expenditures, the majority of which are from the Refuse Fund. Discussion followed regarding transparency of the Clean Cities funding, rate structures, violations of our Franchise Agreement, and the possibility of assuming all commercial collection. The Commission requested a cost benefit analysis comparing potential revenue from Franchise Fees with the cost of assuming all commercial collection.

**Motion to extend meeting 15 minutes M/S/C Halperin/Tam 8/0/0**

**7. SW&RD Tonnage Update 2009-2011:** Etherington overviewed tonnage trends for materials handled at the Transfer Station. Economic factors have likely caused a decline in residential and commercial refuse. RFPs are being prepared for new long-term landfill and short-term C&D contracts. Organics diversion has continued to increase and C&D diversion has grown with improved operations.

**8. Next Steps - Commission Activities:** Kalil established the Sustainable Rate Structure Subcommittee and made preliminary nominations with scheduling to follow.

**9. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates:** Mandatory Recycling – possible presentation by Jack Macy of San Francisco. Additional plastics recycling information was requested by Halperin for diversion and helping add value to our services. Blachman asked that we consider household battery collection at the curb like San Francisco. Tam asked again that the Clean Cities program be moved under the purview of the ZWC.

**10. Adjourn:** M/S/C Jensen/Bartlett to adjourn at 9:40 7/0/1 (Tam Abstains)