



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
Solid Waste Management Division

**MINUTES**  
**ZERO WASTE COMMISSION**  
**Monday, June 27, 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 7:15 PM

**1. Roll Call:**

**Commissioners present:** Kalil, Jensen, Bartlett, Blachman, Schultze-Allen

**Commissioners absent:** Kirkpatrick (excused), Tam (excused), Halperin (excused), Saborio

**Staff:** Ken Etherington - Solid Waste Division Manager, Andy Schneider – Recycling Program Manager

**Members of the Public:** Martin Bourque and Daniel Maher of the Ecology Center (EC); Sara MacKusick of Community Conservation Center (CCC); Tania Levy

**2. Approve Agenda: M/S/C Jensen/Blachman to approve the amended agenda 5/0/0**

**3. Comments from the Public:** Martin Bourque mentioned an active recycling blog on the Ecology Center website. The group discussed the recent informative article on Recology Grover organics processing.

**4. Announcements and Commissioner Comments:** Kalil welcomed Peter Schultze-Allen back to the Commission. Schultze-Allen gave an overview of his experience and recent work with City of Emeryville and StopWaste. Kalil reported that Councilmember Wengraf held a roundtable where commission collaboration was discussed.

**5. Approve Meeting Minutes of April 25, 2011: M/S/C Jensen/Bartlett to approve the May 23, 2011 minutes 5/0/0**

**6. Refuse Rate Subcommittee Report & Discussion:** Future dates for a Subcommittee meeting were discussed. Kalil reported that the City Attorney has agreed to meet with her to discuss the Subcommittee's work on rates. R3 has agreed to provide additional consultation to staff to update their previous study.

**7. Ecology Center & Community Conservation Center Quarterly Reports:** Sara MacKusick updated the Commission on CCC's newly negotiated contract, where CCC pays all operational costs and retains all material revenues, except 7.5% back to the City. MacKusick stated CCC's historic contribution of material revenues to the City, helping to offset the Refuse Fund deficit. CCC is hopeful that good market prices and the State processing and handling fees will continue. MacKusick provided an update on the #5 Plastic Pilot. CCC is able to sort the material, but volumes are low. There was discussion about what constitutes a suitable market. Bourque reminded the Commission that there needs to be operational considerations before other plastics are added to curbside collections.

Kalil proposed the following Commission Resolution:

**The Zero Waste Commission supports the investigation of expanding the acceptance of additional types of plastics into the City's recycling program, including the identification of suitable domestic and local markets.**

**Motion to approve Commission Resolution: M/S/C Kalil/Jensen 5/0/0**

Discussion of the reduction in commercial recycling volumes and franchised hauler recycling service differences followed.

Martin Bourque provided an update on Ecology Center statistics and operations. He reported that volumes, primarily of bottles & cans, continue to be high. Reported and observed poaching has been greatly reduced, even with high paper prices, primarily due to the cart system. There was discussion of revenue flow with the recent contract negotiations. Bourque reported on Ecology Center's safety award from their workers compensation insurance provider for low accident and injury rate. He reported that cart exchanges and fine tuning of the cart program continues and a focus on getting customers to actually set the cart at the curb, and then remove it after service, is being considered. He reported on the current route study being conducted on their routing and operations. It will be completed in July and findings will be shared with City staff.

**Motion to extend meeting 15 minutes M/S/C Bartlett/Jensen 5/0/0**

**8. Resolution of Appreciation for Tania Levy:** Kalil presented Tania Levy with the following certificate and Commission resolution:

IN APPRECIATION:

WHEREAS, Miss Tania Levy has faithfully served our City and region over 18 years, to advance zero waste goals policies and programs with distinction, and the upmost dedication to helping the community embrace the best practices of reuse and recycling; and

WHEREAS, Miss Levy has been a tireless proponent of community service, environmental stewardship and climate protection; and

WHEREAS, Miss Levy has provided a profound example of dedication to the Berkeley community through her civic involvement and public service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the Zero Waste Commission, commend and thank Miss Levy for her dedicated service and civic contributions, and that this Commission will, with great purpose and strength, continue to advance the policies and programs for zero waste that Miss Levy helped to create and foster.

**Motion to approve resolution of appreciation: M/S/C Kalil/Jensen 5/0/0**

**9. Division Update (Schneider)**

**RFP & Contract Update:** Schneider reported bids are due on July 7<sup>th</sup> for the Landfill & C&D RFPs and a new revenue appliance contract has just been executed.

**10. Future Agenda Items and Meeting Dates:** RFP review

**11. Adjourn:** M/S/C Blachman/Jensen to adjourn at 9:15 5/0/0