

County of Santa Clara

Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission
Integrated Waste Management Division

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RECYCLING AND WASTE REDUCTION COMMISSION MINUTES

October 25, 2006

Mountain View City Hall, 500 Castro Street, Mountain View, Plaza Conference Room
Business Meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Voting Members in Attendance

Jose Esteves, Central County Cities
Tony Estremera, SCVWD
John Howe, SMaRT Station Cities
Mike Kasperzak, Member-at-Large
Patrick Kwok, Member-at-Large
Dolly Sandoval, North County Cities

Representing

Milpitas, Santa Clara
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale
All Jurisdictions
All Jurisdictions
Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills

Voting Members Not In Attendance

Linda J. LeZotte, City of San Jose
Pete McHugh, County of Santa Clara
Nick Streit, West Valley Cities
Roland Velasco, South County Cities

City of San Jose
County of Santa Clara
Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga
Gilroy, Morgan Hill

County Staff

Elizabeth Constantino, Integrated Waste Management Division
Lisa Rose, Integrated Waste Management Division
Greg Van Wassenhove, Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management

Others in Attendance

Mark Bowers, City of Sunnyvale
Gil Chesno, Newby Island Landfill
Skip Lacaze, City of San Jose
Cynthia Palacio, City of Mountain View
Annette Puskarich, City of Palo Alto
Dorlene Russell, City of Sunnyvale

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Chair Patrick Kwok called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. Five Commissioners were present and quorum was not met. Chairman Kwok moved non-action items (numbers 3 and 6) up on the agenda until another Commissioner arrived. There were no public presentations and Cynthia Palacio introduced herself as the Chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and provided an update on the issues that were addressed at the August, September and October TAC meetings. During this time, Jose Esteves arrived and quorum was met. At the October TAC meeting, Bob Kass from the City of Campbell provided an informative overview of the Countywide Litter TAC that has been meeting for several months in response to CalTrans' increasing difficulties in removing litter from highways. The litter TAC is comprised of multi-jurisdictional stakeholders that have developed a strategic plan to address this issue. The Litter TAC will be identifying what standards the stakeholders wish to have for roadways and the associated costs to maintain those standards. Once this has been identified, Mr. Kass will return to TAC with an update. Any jurisdiction who is interested in serving on the Litter TAC is invited and encouraged to attend the bi-monthly meetings. TAC also had a presentation from Build It Green organization. They provided a menu of items and services that can be purchased, along with a price list for these items. One city in particular felt this may not be a solid waste issue and that funding should come from Community Development and/or Planning department budgets. TAC has also been discussing the Integrated Waste Management Division's Countywide budget and related services and programs.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM AUGUST 23, 2006 MEETING

A motion to approve the minutes from the August 23 minutes was made by Tony Estremera and seconded by Dolly Sandoval. John Howe noted his abstention since he was not present at the August meeting. The motion was carried.

3. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

There were no public presentations.

4. SOLID WASTE PLANNING FEE INCREASE FOR FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09*

Elizabeth Constantino presented the proposal that would increase the Solid Waste Planning Fee by \$.06, raising it from \$.50 per ton disposed to \$.56 per ton. This fee was last increased in 2003 when it went from \$.42 to \$.50 per ton disposed. Elizabeth stated that TAC members voted on and approved the proposed increase to the Solid Waste Planning Fee by \$.06 at their October 12 meeting. The Solid Waste Planning Fee is revisited on a three year cycle. There was no increase last year, the first of the three year cycle. The proposed increase would go into effect for the last two years of the three year cycle – fiscal years 2007-08 and 2008-09, beginning July 1, 2007. This increase would cover the expansion of the recycling hotline and website, the Public Education program and the development of a measurement tool for the Green Business Program. This increase would also be used to create a Disaster Debris Plan which is mandated by the County Integrated Waste Management Plan (COIWMP) and to provide for limited Build It Green Services. If approved, the Integrated Waste Management Division expects this to go to the Board of Supervisors in January 2007. The Recycling and Waste Reduction Commission requested more information before voting on the proposed \$.06 increase to the Solid Waste Planning Fee. Integrated Waste Management staff will prepare and distribute the additional materials requested so that the RWRC can vote on this issue in December.

5. ASSEMBLYMAN IRA RUSKIN

Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, representing Assembly District 21 gave a legislative update highlighting the bills he worked on in the previous year. He complimented the Commission, County and Cities for the good job they are doing on maintaining diversion levels above the state mandated 50 percent and stated that we are all doing model work of which we should be very proud.

In the past two years, Assemblyman Ruskin chaired the Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee and authored or coauthored 40 bills. Twenty-two of those bills went to the Governor and 14 were signed into law, including AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act. Other bills he discussed included AB 1337 which had been vetoed but may be reintroduced. This bill would have required that state buildings be built to green building standards. Assemblyman Ruskin also discussed AB 1062, the bio-monitoring bill which would study the accumulated toxins in the human body and evaluate the effects of those toxins. Staff inquired about the Assemblyman's position on extended producer responsibility and he stated that there were two bills that dealt with similar issues (AB 1125 – rechargeable batteries and AB 2901 – cell phone recycling) and two that were killed in appropriations (AB 3001 – increasing e-waste to include CPU's and AB 2771 which would have imposed a \$.10 fee on household batteries). Assemblyman Ruskin reminded everyone that only a limited number of bills will go through to the Governor in any given year and that it is critical to introduce those that have the best chance of making it all the way through the process. Staff also asked about pharmaceutical take-back. Assemblyman Ruskin agreed that the solution of legislation for the take-back of pharmaceuticals by the medical community would likely be the most efficacious.

Additionally, Assemblyman Ruskin stated that he asked that the Speaker release him as Chair of the Environmental Safety Committee and that he be appointed to Chair the Budget Subcommittee on Environmental Resources instead replacing Fran Pavla. This subcommittee directs where general fund monies dealing with environment are appropriated and allows oversight of many boards and committees including the California Integrated Waste Management Board.

The major purpose of Assemblyman Ruskin's visit was to solicit input from the Commissioners as to what legislation they would propose he carry over the next two years. He asked that the RWRC review their legislative priorities and submit the top three to his staff in order of priority so that he can represent them accordingly. Patrick Kwok presented Assemblyman Ruskin with a thank-you gift for his presentation.

6. IWM DIVISION MANAGER'S REPORT

Elizabeth Constantino reported that IWM is evaluating the bids that were received for seven of the eight garbage districts in the unincorporated areas.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dolly Sandoval recommended that the three year strategic plan be agendaized for the February meeting so that new Commissioners can be informed of the issues priorities pertinent to the Commission.

Patrick Kwok thanked Cynthia Palacio and the City of Mountain View for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.