

APPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS

Minutes: Regular meeting of Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission
Meeting Date: April 27, 2010
Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Place: Milpitas City Hall, Committee Meeting Room

I. ROLL Chair Blake called to order the Milpitas Recycling and Source Reduction Advisory Commission at 7:00 p.m. Commissioners Ablaza, Ybarra, Arthur and Cimino were present. Mayor Robert Livengood, staff Kathleen Phalen and Elizabeth Koo were present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE All

III. SEATING OF ALTERNATES None

IV. MINUTES The minutes from the meeting of January 26, 2010.

Motion to approve.

M/S: Arthur/Ybarra

Ayes: All

V. PUBLIC FORUM None

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff Koo made two announcements:

- On April 10th, commissioners were recognized at the commission recognition brunch. Those who were unable to attend would receive their certificates after the meeting.
- City of San Jose announced a series of public meetings on the proposed plastic bag ban. The next one was scheduled for the following night at San Jose's City Hall from 6 to 7:30pm. Commissioner Ablaza asked that the meeting event information be e-mailed to RSRAC.

VII. AGENDA The agenda for this meeting was approved.

Motion to approve the agenda as submitted.

M/S: Cimino/Ablaza

Ayes: All

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

1. *Plastic Bag/Polystyrene Work Plan* – Staff Koo provided a brief review of Council's direction to RSRAC which included staff: coordinating with RSRAC, developing educational outreach, reviewing the San Jose's EIR and studying the issue of polystyrene food service ware. Information regarding bans on plastic bags and polystyrene in other jurisdictions was briefly discussed. The polystyrene and plastic bag matrices were referenced as a discussion aid and information resource.

Public comments were received from the following:

Allison Chan, Save the Bay, provided brief updates regarding plastic bag developments around the Bay Area and distributed a case study related to the City of Millbrae's polystyrene ordinance. She encouraged City of Milpitas' support in banning these materials.

Ed McGovern, American Chemistry Council, provided polystyrene fact sheets and letters from product producers which use recycled polystyrene to manufacture their products.

Manny Diaz, American Chemistry Council, noted that cities were taking different approaches to handling plastic bags. As illustration, the City of San Jose's example of banning plastic bags and charging a 25 cent fee on paper bags. Mr. Diaz emphasized his organization's wishes to work with businesses and the community.

Commissioners individually shared requests for clarity on issues which included: timing and methodology of implementing a ban, fiscal impact, environmental markers gauging ban's effectiveness, and alternative product options.

2. *Solid Waste Master Plan (SWMP)* – Staff Phalen reported that Council approved an amendment to an existing agreement with HF&H for assistance in developing the City's SWMP and renegotiating contract services with Allied Waste. Efforts on the latter were scheduled to begin shortly. Chair Blake suggested a future presentation on landfill design as an informational piece for RSRAC.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

1. *Residential Food Waste Program* – Staff Phalen reported that this item was placed on the agenda upon request. Currently, a commercial food waste program collects from large companies with in-house cafeterias. Material is placed in front load bins and collected by a single truck on a dedicated food organics route. A residential route would be a new service that the City could request and which would require newly established rates. Commissioners indicated that they would like to see this program considered as part of the SWMP effort.

X. STAFF ACTIVITIES

Staff Koo provided a brief overview of ongoing waste diversion activities which included reviewing radio and television ads related to the County's reusable bag campaign.

There was general discussion regarding the type and size of reusable bags as well as the optimal methodology of distributing these bags in conjunction with a bag ban. Options would be reviewed at the next RSRAC meeting.

XI. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Plastic Bag/Polystyrene
Solid Waste Master Plan

XII. SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00pm.

M/S: Ablaza/Cimino

Ayes: All