



City of Davis

Utility Rate Advisory Commission Special Meeting Minutes

Community Chambers, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis CA 95616

Thursday, February 23, 2017

7:00 P.M.

Commissioner Members Present: Gerry Braun (Chair), Jacques Franco, Lorenzo Kristov, Richard McCann, Elaine Roberts-Musser, Johannes Troost

Absent: None

Staff Present: Richard Tsai, Environmental Resources Manager

Additional Attending: Adrienne Heinig, Administrative Analyst

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Braun at 7:00pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

J Troost moved, seconded by J Franco to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Regular Items

A. Review of the Finalized Request for Proposals for the Solid Waste Rate Study and Organics Processing Facility Feasibility Analysis.

R Tsai introduced the proposals as drafted by staff and explained the goals in releasing them, both of which had previously been introduced at the regular commission meeting in February. He discussed some of the issues that had arisen during the initial operation of the organics program, and the need for review of solid waste rates.

The Solid Waste Rate study was reviewed first, and the commission provided the following comments:

- Applicants must have experience in organics even if it limits the number of consultants.
- The option to opt out of services needs to be evaluated: opting out of garbage service by self-hauling to landfill does not opt out of the organics program; allowing cart sharing is difficult to enforce.
- Need provide a definition of “local” if the evaluation will have a local preference.

- Evaluate cart sizes to determine the different costs between different sizes. Would it be appropriate to set the default size at 35-gallon container rather than 65?
- How to protect against increased tipping fees: look at more mature landfills that have dealt with this; Yolo County staff set tipping fees. Why are these rates increasing?
- Review the possibility of shifting leaf pick up to later in the year—may need additional analysis and more on the outreach side. There has been discussion around containerizing everything to protect bicyclists, but it would be difficult for the community to adjust to full containerization.

The commission also reviewed the Organics Processing Facility Feasibility Study request for proposals. R Tsai discussed the current status of the city's organic waste disposal system, and the potential for future development in the land surrounding the Wastewater Treatment Plant, or the old landfill site north of town. The aim of the study is partially to determine, if the city decided to build its own organics processing facility, what would be the best technology to pursue?

The commission provided the following comments:

- J Franco indicated a life cycle analysis could be difficult, and felt a qualitative comparison is better. Environmental impact of trips made by garbage trucks and their wear and tear on roads, depending on the technology chosen, should be taken into account by the city. The consultant should be provided with monthly haul reports.
- It was determined by commissioners that there should be greater explanation of the phrase "viability of current organics disposal."

5. Adjournment was at 9:00pm by consensus.

Respectively Submitted by,

Adrienne Heinig
Administrative Analyst I