

Environmental Services Legislative Review Committee
Thursday, March 10, 2011
2nd Floor, Council Chambers, City Hall

Attendees:

Representative Susie Byrd	Daryl Cole, EPDdot Director
Representative Emma Acosta	Harold Kutz, EPDdot
Representative Ann Morgan Lilly	Ellen A. Smyth, ESD
Josette Flores, Assistant City Attorney	John D. Garza, ESD
Alex Jimenez, WTE	Kurt Fenstermacher, ESD
Manooch Khanbeig, WTE	Marty Howell, ESD
Trish Tanner, JOBE	Miguel Parra, ESD
Stanley Jobe, JOBE	Al Melero, ESD
Daniel Dolan, Dolan Assoc.	Richard Adams, ESD
Daniel Mayen, CEMEX	Valerie Joosten, ESD
Victor Marquez, CEMEX	Tammy Fonce, ESD
Paul Perez, Western	Gloria Duran, ESD
Julie Baldwin-Munoz, Eng. & Const. Mgmt.	Martha Y. Guevara, ESD
Sam Rodriguez, Eng. & Const. Mgmt.	

Members Absent:

Representative Eddie Holguin, Jr.

#1. Call to order and establish quorum.

The meeting of the Environmental Services Legislative Review Committees was called to order by the Chair Representative Byrd at 9:35 a.m. and a quorum was established.

#2. Discussion and action on the approval of Legislative Review Committee Minutes of November 8, 2010.

Motion was made by Representative Byrd to approve LRC minutes as presented. Motion passes unanimously to approve the minutes.

#3. Discussion and action regarding exploring options for using more recycled construction materials for city projects, including street and building projects.

Sam Rodriguez, Engineering and Construction Management, gave a presentation on the types of City projects that have incorporated recycled construction material. These projects have primarily been roadway and drainage projects where they incorporate asphalt millings or recycled asphalt material as the base layer for the roadways. The City has a technical specification for using recycled asphalt materials and allows construction contractors the option of using these materials in street and drainage projects. The City has also worked with PSB by using recycled/gray water at places such as the Zoo, Saipan Park/Pond and the Westside Sports Complex, and the City is also working with the Parks Department on incorporating recycled materials on playground surfaces. Harold Kutz,

City of El Paso Department of Transportation, talked about how EPDoT has been recycling roadway asphaltic material for over 14 years through its Street Resurfacing Program. He also talked about how EPDoT utilizes recycled (reclaimed) water in its daily operations of street sweeping and in the operation and maintenance activities related to streets, alleys and demolitions. Where reclaimed water is available, EPDoT uses recycled (reclaimed) water to irrigate medians and completely supplies the irrigation need for the City's 10-acre tree farm which provides trees to medians, parks and other City projects. EPDoT also purchases crack sealing materials made of recycled crumb rubber obtained from scrap tires. Rep. Byrd asked Mr. Kutz if he thinks the City is using recycled materials to its fullest. Mr. Kutz replied that the use of recycled materials is allowed in EPDoT contracts and the City will continue using the recycled materials for the street resurfacing program. Rep. Acosta commented that she was told that a rock wall being demolished at the airport was going to be disposed of at the landfill. Rep. Acosta asked if rocks from a rock wall would be able to be reused or could be recycled. Mr. Kutz replied that the City highly encourages the use of recycled rocks. Ellen Smyth, ESD, said that the Engineering Department could put in the specifications for a project to set aside construction material for reuse or recycling. Mrs. Smyth also added that when rock goes into the landfill, it could be diverted and set aside to have a stock pile for later use. It could be used for a fill material which is a much better use for the rock. Rep. Lilly asked about using slag since she heard that TXDoT will be getting slag from ASARCO and will be using it in roadway projects. Mr. Kutz said that there are different types of slag and different health and safety issues with it as well. Under the right use and conditions, slag can be used. Rep. Lilly asked Mr. Daryl Cole if he could ask and see if we could be able to use slag. Daryl Cole, EPDoT, said that the City has used slag in the past in several paving projects. It is accepted as an alternative. Rep. Lilly asked if it would make the roads last longer and Mr. Cole replied no. Rep. Byrd asked if EPDoT coordinates with TXDoT on recycled materials, and Mr. Kutz replied that the City does coordinate with TXDoT.

Rep. Byrd asked if Mr. Jobe from JOBE Materials and Mr. Marquez from CEMEX would talk about any ideas they might have regarding using recycled materials for projects. Mr. Jobe provided a list with eight uses for recycled materials in the construction aggregate business. He mentioned that it would be better for a contractor to take these materials to a place in the City that would accept and process these materials rather than disposing of them in the desert or dumping the materials illegally. Rep. Lilly asked if rubber asphalt makes the roads quieter and last longer. Mr. Jobe said that yes it does but the cost is higher. Rep. Acosta asked Mr. Jobe whether JOBE was a registered recycler. Mr. Jobe answered that JOBE is regulated by the State as a rock crusher and not as a recycling facility. Rep. Byrd asked Mr. Marquez if he had anything to add to this discussion. Mr. Marquez asked if the City could continue to take a look at the opportunities to benefit our environment here in El Paso by using recycled materials in construction projects.

Rep. Byrd expressed support of a waste manifest program to track the proper disposal of construction material and to encourage the recycling of construction materials. She asked the City to use recycled materials on City projects where possible. Rep. Acosta

recommended that the City encourage the use of recycling facilities. Rep. Byrd made a motion that was approved unanimously to support the City's manifest program, incorporate into the City's specifications and design standards the use of recycled materials, encourage companies to register as recyclers, and recommended the continued use of recycled materials for all City projects.

#4. Discussion and update regarding a future partnership with Ft. Bliss and one possible Waste to Energy Technology Project.

Mr. Alex Jimenez and Mr. Manooch Khanbeig gave a presentation on the pyrolysis technology for a proposed waste to energy project. This technology turns trash into bio fuel or electricity eliminating the need for disposing of waste into a landfill. The technology acts like a big oven under high temperatures and zero oxygen condition. Studies show that the air emissions from the process are below California standards. The vendor has units that can process 200 to 250 tons per day for the production of bio diesel and electricity. This system would pay for itself in El Paso in about 10 years. It can get rid of medical waste, hospital waste, scrap tires, and hazardous waste. Mr. Alex Jimenez asked the LRC what is the City's interest in a project like this and what would the expectations be. Rep. Byrd said that the direction from Council has been to pursue alternative sources of energy to the extent that it's possible, practical and economical. Rep. Byrd expressed Council's desire to avoid building new landfill cells and explore partnership opportunities with Ft. Bliss. Rep. Byrd asked that Mr. Jimenez send the video that they were unable to show so that Ellen Smyth could send it to Council.

#5. Discussion and action regarding City's Sustainability Business Plan.

Marty Howell, ESD gave a brief discussion on City sustainability options, costs, and the need for an outward focus. Mr. Howell reviewed a list of potential projects for the focus areas defined in the City's Sustainability Plan. Rep. Acosta had a question on the transportation slide presented by Mr. Howell where it was suggested that the City work with UTEP to provide free passes to students. Rep. Acosta asked whether the City is looking at opportunities to acquire grant funding for this cost. Rep. Byrd stated that the university already offers free bus passes to students. Rep. Acosta talked about car pooling being done at City Hall at one time which was very beneficial to employees. Mr. Howell stated that we could certainly work with OMB to set aside some parking spots for people who car pool. Rep. Acosta mentioned that Sun Metro has express routes for employees of the University Medical Center and Texas Tech. It would be good for the City to develop more of these express routes throughout the city. Mr. Howell stated that he would discuss these items with Sun Metro to see what can be done. The LRC expressed support of the proposed options and asked that City Staff explore grant opportunities and to work with OMB in carpooling options and express bus routes. A budget for these activities will be prepared and presented as part of the Department budget hearings.

#6. Discussion and update regarding expanding the City of El Paso Air Quality Program.

Ellen Smyth, ESD, will email a copy of presentation to the representatives and they can give the department feedback.

#7. Discussion and action regarding a policy for recycling collections in severe weather.

This item is to be discussed at a future LRC due to lack of quorum.

#8. Discussion and action regarding Texas Product Stewardship Council initiatives.

This item is to be discussed in a future LRC due to lack of quorum.

#9. Public Comment.

#10. Set next meeting.

#11. Adjournment.

MOTION was not made to adjourn the meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

The meeting ended at 11:21 a.m.

Notes taken by Martha Y. Guevara, Secretary, ESD.