

CITY OF FULLERTON ENERGY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 16, 2011 303 West Commonwealth Avenue Fullerton, California

Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:38 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman McNelly
Committee Member George
Committee Member Lucero
Committee Member Mitchell
Committee Member Otter
Committee Member Rocabado

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:

Committee Member Avera Committee Member Brassett Committee Member Chi Committee Member Ortega, Jr. Committee Member Thakur

STAFF PRESENT:

Assistant Planner Dove Clerical Assistant Norton

GUESTS PRESENT:

Nick Arhontes, P.E. OC Sanitation District's Director of Facilities Support Services Dept.

Bill Roseberry, Sewer Superintendent for the City of Fullerton scheduled to speak about Fats, Oils, & Grease was not able to speak due to illness. His presentation will be rescheduled.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 21, 2011

MOTION by Committee Member Lucero SECONDED by Committee Member George to APPROVE the minutes as written.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

Mr. Arhontes showed sample photos; provided handouts of his presentation about flushable but not dispersible products. He provided background information on how the Orange County Sanitation District protects the public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment and recycling.

The Orange County Sanitation District covers 463 square miles, 21 cities, have 27 local Satellite Systems and two plants.

Plant 1 is a reclamation plant located in Fountain Valley Plant 2 is a treatment plant located in Huntington Beach

Mr. Arhontes said that California adopted a new Uniform Plumbing Code 306.1 that makes it unlawful to deposit (ashes, rags, inflammable, poisonous, or explosive liquids or gases, oils or grease) in the sewer. Statewide WDR Order 2006-003 to reduce sewer spills in California is an order that the City must comply with. This Order is a very stringent set of regulations and California is the only state that has this Order state-wide.

Orange County Sanitation District is a member of NACWA, an organization of clean water agencies. This District produced a guidance document that helps cities and agencies. Assembly Bill AB2256 was proposed in 2010 that talks about labeling flushable products. INDA is a manufacture's association of Nonwoven Fabrics and advocates improved labeling and testing. On a national level, Mr. Arhontes is Vice Chair of the Water Environment Federation's National Collections System Committee a technical Assistance Group (TAG) that acts as an investigative body on issues that affect any and all aspects of collection systems.

Committee Members viewed photos of the different types of products that are showing up that are not dispersible. Items such as Baby Wipes and Feminine Hygiene Products. Paper towels from public restroom dispensers are also a major issue making them a contributor to clogs.

Kimberly Clark and Proctor and Gamble are both very strong companies that have brought a lot of research to the table.

Committee Members viewed a list of the 12 accomplishments for 2011. The Orange County Sanitation District became aware of NSF, an agency that has testing and certification capabilities. Mandatory testing and better labeling are the core issues that must be the goals and tasks for 2012.

The City of Portland, Maine conducted a test of the products removed from the sewer finding that 90%+/- of the products removed from the sewer during the test were non-flushable.

Recommendations:

- Consumer Education is going to be a key component
- Go Green get rid of paper towels
- Require any product that is going to be used "below the waist" to be made of a flushable/dispersible substance
- Better labeling

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS:

Lucero – the Plumbing Code would be very difficult to enforce. Could strainers be used to keep oils, fats and grease out of the drains? Mr. Arhontes said strainers could be used but who would bear the cost. Educating the children in the school who then pass the information on to their parents has worked in the past.

George – a large percentage of people are not complying. Is there anything Fullerton could do? Mr. Arhontes said he would advocate designing the product out of materials that would be dispersible.

McNelly – we are seeing sewer spills drop due to better tools, more staff and sewer replacement. Are these issues gender based?

Mitchell – many people are not aware that there are certain products that should not be flushed down the drain.

McNelly – wondered if these issues are gender based.

Rocabado – she does not believe that the issues are gender based and that both men and women share the responsibility of knowing what products are flushable. She recommended that Mr. Arhontes continue to educate other cities that he has jurisdiction over with his presentation. Also consider other larger City-wide audiences and schools. She asked about the TAG member outreach to the public. What are their ideas to reach the public? Arhontes - said TAG works on the technical issues and advocates whether they think education will be part of the solution and we rely on others to help to get the message out.

Mitchell – recommended that the City get the word out by putting a flier or a mailer in the water bill.

Otter – asked if there is any type of funding for scholarships and bumper stickers if the Committee sponsored a student limerick writing contest that could eventually evolve into an interesting and educational set of slogans that could be posted by the toilet as a reminder.

Arhontes – said there is no revenue stream at this time but liked the idea. Maybe we could carry the idea into the industries to peak some interest. Perhaps have a fund raiser.

McNelly - Toilets could be labeled as to what not to flush.

Mitchell – suggested that clubs may be interested in hearing this presentation on the non-dispersible products.

Lucero – a lot of restrooms are going green. Removing paper towels and replacing them with blowers. Not sure whether the high performance blowers are more cost effective.

McNelly and Geoege – Offered some feedback on the presentation.

- Less information on TAG members and their accomplishments. All in all the presentation was good.
- There should be an education budget to inform the public.

Arhontes – said Orange County Sanitary District is launching a website.

Mitchell – likes the idea of asking manufactures to help educate the public.

Otter – asked if there was a contact person at Kimberly Clark that he could follow up with on the scholarships.

Arhontes – said he would see if he could arrange a tour of Kimberly Clark.

COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS

McNelly – advised the Committee that his membership is expiring on December 31, 2011. He is still willing to serve.

With no further comments or questions the meeting adjourned at 9:20 A.M. The next regular meeting will be on February 15, 2012.

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support