

MEETING NOTES
SINGLE USE BAG REDUCTION AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

Store Operations Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday, June 17, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

Department of Public Works, Environmental Programs Division, Large Conference Room

I. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. Those in attendance were: Emiko Thompson, Nilda Gemeniano, Angie Nguyen, Natalia Jimenez, Suk Chong, and Christine Frias with the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works; Burt Kumagawa with the County of Los Angeles Chief Executive Office; Ritu Sehgal with the County of Los Angeles Internal Services Department; Ruben Morla with California Verde magazine; and Pat Smith with Earth Share of California. Rick Crandall with Albertsons attended via conference call.

II. Store Operations Program Components

a. Additional Store Site Visits

Ms. Frias provided an update regarding additional store site visits and checklists received. Since the last Working Group meeting, Public Works staff conducted ten additional store site visits in the unincorporated County areas. These were mainly large retail stores with a licensed pharmacy, such as Rite Aid and CVS. Staff discussed the program, provided the Waste Board forms, and offered the American Chemistry Council's tool kit to the store managers.

It was found that most of these stores carried reusable bags for sale, and provided bins for recycling plastic bags. Some bins, however, were not accessible to the public or not prominently placed in public view due to limited floor space at the front of the store.

Based on the site visits staff also found that some of the stores identified on the Waste Board's list generated less than \$2 million in gross annual sales, therefore, do not qualify as category 1 stores.

b. Upcoming Store Partnership Program

In an effort to expand program participation among stores and other agencies, Ms. Jimenez proposed a store partnership campaign. The goal of the campaign would be to promote reusable bags, enhance recycling of plastic bags, and educate the public about the Program and the impacts of litter from single use bags. A resolution could be adopted by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors on November 10, 2009, and the campaign would kick off on "America Recycles Day," on November 15th. Each Saturday, thereafter, various supermarkets and grocery stores in the unincorporated County areas and participating cities would host events at which store patrons could bring a specified number of single use plastic bags to exchange with a reusable bag. In addition to the Saturdays, these bag exchange events would also be done on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Thanksgiving, when grocery

shopping is at its peak. The campaign would end on Heal the Bay's "A Day Without a Bag" on December 17, 2009. Partnerships could include grocery stores, radio stations, non-profit organizations, and other interested entities.

c. Keep California Beautiful's Outreach Materials

On June 11, 2009, Ms. Thompson attended the Keep California Beautiful's Community Network Workshop in the City of Riverside. Ms. Christine Flowers of Keep California Beautiful presented their "Got Your Bag" campaign, which is a collaborative program with grocers and retailers to promote reusable bags as well as the recycling of plastic bags. Keep California Beautiful offers outreach materials that display their slogan "Got Your Bags," such as buttons for check stand clerks, store window clings, car window clings, and stencils.

Ms. Flowers expressed interest in collaborating with the County's Program to further expand outreach as part of their campaign. Opportunities for upcoming collaboration could include:

- Placing "Got Your Bag" graphics and information on the Program website for access by stores and partner cities. The logo would not be altered since it is trademarked.
- Providing a supply of "Got Your Bag" window clings and buttons for distribution to interested stores, cities, and at community events.

III. Open Discussion on Program

In order to streamline discussions and staff presentations Ms. Thompson suggested combining the three subcommittee meetings into one meeting similar to the Working Group meeting. In the event stakeholders wish to meet separately at the subcommittee level to discuss specific program issues, such subcommittee meetings could be conducted on an as-needed basis.

IV. Next Steps

The next Working Group meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2009, at the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works.