

Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

**Minutes of June 19, 2003**

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, California

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
John McTaggart, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
David Roberti, General Public Representative  
Ben Wong, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Christopher Garner, rep. by Charles Tripp, City of Long Beach  
Thomas L. Garthwaite, rep. by Virginia Maloles, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services  
James A. Noyes, rep. by Shari Afshari, County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works  
Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Judith Wilson, rep. by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative  
Ron Deaton, City of Los Angeles Appointee  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee  
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries  
Jim Stahl, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of L.A. DPW  
Ray Andersen, Waste Management  
Bob Barker, County of L.A. DPW  
Jim Berryhill, City of Pasadena  
Toyasha Black, City of Arcadia  
Bonnie Bruce, CIWMB  
Doug Corcoran, Waste Management  
Eric Cruse, East Valley Coalition  
Steve Didier, City of Manhattan Beach  
Tammy Evans, City of Monrovia  
Bernardo Iniguez, City of Bellflower  
Cary Kalscheuer, City of Azusa  
Ben Lucha, City of Santa Clarita  
Ellen Mackey, East Valley Coalition  
Marsha McLean, Task Force Alternate,  
Environmental Organization  
Representative

Mike Miller, Task Force Alternate,  
League of California Cities  
Mike Mohajer, Task Force Alternate,  
General Public Representative  
Phil Morales, CIWMB  
Michelle Nicholls, SCS Engineers  
Lara Orchanian, City of La Habra  
Heights  
Mike Papanian, CIWMB Board Member  
Linda Moulton-Patterson, CIWMB Chair  
Jerry Piro, East Valley Coalition  
Lee Piro, East Valley Coalition  
Philip Tamayo, City of Pico Rivera  
Steve Uselton, CIWMB

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:17 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2003**

The minutes of April 17, 2003, were unanimously approved as presented.

**III. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Michael Miller chaired the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting in the absence of the Subcommittee chair. He stated the Subcommittee reviewed the Finding of Conformance (FOC) request from Waste Management Recycling and Disposal Services of California, Inc. (Waste Management) for Bradley Landfill and Recycling Center (BLRC). The Subcommittee decided they did not have enough information from Waste Management to make a decision regarding the FOC at the meeting. In order for the Subcommittee to make a decision, Mr. Miller explained the Subcommittee requested Waste Management to provide information regarding the following:

- Landfill gas perimeter monitoring system, including details of monitoring probes; spacing, depths and locations of monitoring wells, and proximity to the waste fill.
- Relationship of the site to surrounding properties including locations of residential and commercial buildings within 1,000 feet of the landfill
- Site drainage, including bench drains and down drains
- As-built liner plans, details, cross sections, and boundaries
- Diversion activities at the site, including types and quantities of materials recycled at the materials recovery facility and the recycling rate
- Monitoring of the site by the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) and other agencies
- Explanation as to how the site will operate until 2007
- Closure plan, including proposed uses and schedule for various closure and post-closure activities
- Top deck drainage plan that allows for settlement and compaction over a period of time
- Site's available capacity, comparing how much has actually been used and how much is still available
- A letter from Waste Management detailing their willingness to actively support conversion technology
- Measures to ensure accuracy of waste Origin Survey information
- Measures to prevent acceptance of radioactive waste
- Listing of persons the community may contact with their concerns

The Subcommittee voted unanimously to request this information be sent to the Department of Public Works, who are staff on the Task Force, and once the information is reviewed, Waste Management can come back to the Subcommittee and the full Task Force for consideration of the FOC.

Mr. Miller stated the Subcommittee also voted unanimously to send a letter to the City of Los Angeles Building and Safety Department, City of Los Angeles LEA, and City of Los Angeles Fire Department relative to safety provisions being provided around the site to protect businesses and residents.

A motion was made to send a letter to the City of Los Angeles Building and Safety Department, the City of Los Angeles LEA, and the City of Los Angeles Fire Department, echoing the list of concerns about the BLRC site and asking for their documentation of compliance. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **IV. CONSIDERATION OF A FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR BRADLEY LANDFILL**

This item was postponed until Waste Management, the City of Los Angeles Building and Safety Department, the City of Los Angeles LEA, and the City of Los Angeles Fire Department provide the information regarding the BLRC site requested by the Subcommittee and the Task Force.

#### **V. MONTHLY STATUS REPORT ON AB 939 REGIONAL AGENCY FORMATION**

Ms. Karen Coca stated that she would like to have the regular status report on Regional Agency Formation removed as a monthly agenda item. She stated the Regional Agency is scheduled for review on the July California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) meeting agenda. After they are approved by the Waste Board as a State-recognized Regional Agency, they can move forward with their 2002 consolidated Annual Report. Ms. Coca stated they are working closely with Waste Board staff and the preliminary 2000 base year diversion rate for the Regional Agency will be 56 percent. She explained the next step after Waste Board approval will be to set up the first official meeting of the 15 member cities and adopt the bylaws.

## **VI. STATUS ON DRAFT DISPOSAL REPORTING SYSTEM REGULATIONS**

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works stated the Waste Board has revised the draft regulations since he provided the status report to the Task Force last month. He stated the Waste Board released the draft regulations yesterday and has scheduled two workshops. The first workshop is in Diamond Bar on June 24, 2003, and the second is in Sacramento on June 26, 2003.

Mr. Aiyetiwa explained the Waste Board will be accepting written comments until July 18, 2003. He stated that staff did not have the opportunity to review the draft regulations before the meeting. However, staff will review the draft regulations and provide comments to the Waste Board before July 18, 2003. These comments will include the opinions regarding the draft regulations expressed by the Task Force during the May 15, 2003, meeting.

## **VII. TASK FORCE WEBSITE**

Mr. Bob Barker, from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, presented the proposed Task Force website to the Task Force. He requested the Task Force to take the following actions regarding the website: direct any final changes to the website including changes to contact information, authorize the launch of the website, authorize Shari Afshari as the web content manager, and to authorize the promotion of the website by authorizing placement of the website address on Task Force letterhead, agendas, minutes, and business cards. In addition, Mr. Barker asked the Task Force to request the local agencies or jurisdictions that they represent to add to their websites a link to the Task Force website. Mr. Barker stated the website address is *www.lacountyiswmtf.org*.

Task Force members discussed the language of the description of the conversion technology committee. They decided the language should be changed so that the description states simply a conversion technology subcommittee is in the process of being formed.

The Task Force agreed the website address should be placed on the Task Force letterhead. Mr. John McTaggart stated the letterhead should be on recycled-content paper. Task Force members agreed to ask their local agencies to place links to the Task Force website on their websites. A motion was made to approve Shari Afshari as the web content manager for the website, to add the website address to Task Force letterhead, agendas, minutes, and business cards, and to authorize the launch of the website. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. STATUS ON PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION DEBRIS REGULATIONS**

Mr. Carlos Ruiz, from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, stated the Waste Board has been developing construction and demolition (C&D) regulations in two phases. Phase I will deal with C&D and inert debris processing and Phase II will deal with C&D and inert debris disposal. The Waste Board adopted Phase I of the C&D regulations on April 9, 2003.

Mr. Ruiz explained the Waste Board initiated a public comment period for Phase II in April 2002. On January 17, 2003, the Office of Administrative Law initiated a 45-day public comment period on Phase II of the C&D regulations. The Waste Board has one year from that date to complete the regulatory process, meaning the process must be completed by January 17, 2004.

The Waste Board conducted a stakeholder's workshop on June 13, 2003, for parties who had previously expressed interest. Representatives from facility operators, local enforcement agencies, jurisdictions, and consultants attended the workshop. Waste Board staff identified proposed changes to the regulations at the workshop. The Waste Board staff accepted comments on the proposed changes and listened to the concerns of all those who attended.

Mr. Ruiz stated one major issue that was addressed regarding the proposed changes was the removal of plastics from the definition of Type A inert debris. Some plastics are biodegradable and it appears the industry is moving in that direction, so more plastic is expected to be biodegradable in the future. As a result of this expectation, Waste Board staff decided to eliminate the plastics from the list of materials that would be accepted as Type A inert debris.

Mr. Ruiz also stated there are new provisions in the regulations that staff referred to as "three-strike" provisions. These provisions could impact the category of operations that would be called Inert Debris Engineered Fill Operations. This category would not be subject to disposal reporting system requirements or to the Waste Board's fee. Mr. Ruiz explained the inert landfills in the County of Los Angeles and throughout the State would probably fall into this category.

However, Mr. Ruiz explained that if a facility violates certain conditions three or more times within any two-year period, that facility would be taken out of that category and placed in the Registration or Full Permit categories.

Mr. Ruiz stated there is a requirement in the regulations to have scales in these Engineered Field Operations which was debated heavily. The main concern raised was why these operations should have scales. The Waste Board's staff's response was that the scale requirement was added to make these regulations

consistent with the Phase I regulations where the Waste Board required that transfer stations or facilities that receive these types of materials have scales onsite.

Mr. Ruiz explained at this point, it did not appear that Waste Board staff were going to remove this requirement from the regulations. He explained the issue will most likely be raised when the draft regulations are revised and released for public comment.

Mr. Ruiz stated the Waste Board staff's next step regarding the Phase II C&D regulations is to revise the draft regulations and send the revised draft regulations to the Permitting and Enforcement Committee, possibly in July or August 2003.

#### **IX. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB**

Mr. Steve Uselton from the Waste Board provided an update to the Task Force. He stated the Waste Board has a new committee structure which was implemented this month. His Division, Diversion Planning and Local Assistance, will now be reporting to the Sustainability and Market Development Committee. He distributed a handout containing the new Committee structure to the Task Force.

He stated that he brought flyers for upcoming Waste Board workshops, which he placed on the agenda table. The flyers list a website where the public can get descriptions and flow chart diagrams about what is being discussed at the Waste Board. The website also describes how the Disposal Reporting System will work under the proposed regulations. Mr. Uselton encouraged the Task Force to look at the website. The website address is [www.ciwmb.ca.gov](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov). The information Mr. Uselton detailed is available under the Rulemaking file on the website.

Mr. Uselton stated he has been receiving calls regarding State budget issues and how those issues might affect the Waste Board's ability to work with jurisdictions. He explained that the Department of Personnel Administration required the Waste Board to develop a contingency plan calling for a staff reduction of 10 percent. However, the Southern California office will not be affected by that reduction.

Mr. Uselton stated the Waste Board has provided feedback to all of the jurisdictions in the County of Los Angeles regarding their 2001 Annual Reports and have given them a preliminary diversion rate. The Waste Board has asked to meet with jurisdictions in the month of June and in the month of July if the Waste Board has any questions regarding a jurisdiction's programs.

Mr. Uselton also stated he was asked to share information about a presentation that will be made at the California Resource Recovery Association conference in Ontario on July 20, 2003. The conference involves recycling activities and special events. The Waste Board staff has developed a web page that will be devoted to that subject area. The Waste Board is interested in compiling information about what jurisdictions are doing in terms of recycling activities and special events to determine where the Waste Board can expand those programs. He stated that he brought conference brochures, which also were placed on the agenda table.

## **X. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Paul Alva from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works stated there are four Bills that are of interest to the Task Force.

- SB 20 – Introduced by Sher

This Bill would require the manufacturers of electronic devices to prepare a recovery plan and submit it to the Waste Board for approval. If a manufacturer decides against a recovery plan, then it must pay a specified fee to the Waste Board to cover the cost of recycling the electronic devices produced by the manufacturer. Utilizing these collected revenues, the Waste Board would implement a Statewide electronic waste recycling program. This Bill sunsets if the Federal government puts together their own electronic waste program or if the courts decide that this fee is not applicable to manufacturers outside of California.

- SB 23 – Introduced by Sher

This Bill has been revised so that the Bill is now just making technical revisions to the Bottle Bill. The previous version of the Bill specified doubling the beverage container redemption value and would have provided loans to the State General Fund. That language has been removed from the Bill.

- SB 204 – Introduced by Peretta

The legislator told the press he is dropping the Bill. This Bill is essentially dead.

- SB 537- Introduced by Romero

This Bill has been revised to only require a report from the County of Los Angeles Sanitation Districts (LACSD) on waste-by-rail project. This report is due to the Legislature by July 2004.

Mr. Mohajer stated he would like the Task Force to send a letter to Senator Sher in support of SB 20. A motion was made and passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer stated that SB 537 is a waste of the taxpayer's money because there is no need to use State legislation to require the LACSD to prepare a report, since the LACSD already provides any information the Legislature requests. He stated the Bill would set a precedent and the Task Force should send a letter opposing the Bill. A motion was made and it passed with one member abstaining.

#### **XI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Moulton-Patterson and Mike Papanian from the Waste Board attended the Task Force meeting and presented Mike Mohajer with a certificate recognizing his years of dedication to the waste management industry.

Mr. McTaggart stated that the Task Force should formally thank the Waste Board for attending the meeting and presenting Mr. Mohajer with a certificate.

Mr. Cary Kalscheuer from the City of Azusa stated that he would like to commend Mike Mohajer on his years of service to the cities of the San Gabriel Valley.

Ms. Coca stated that the County of Los Angeles passed an ordinance in April that places a fee on waste that originates in the County but is shipped outside the County for disposal. She explained there was a concern that the ordinance was not discussed at a Task Force meeting. She asked that the item be placed on the next Task Force agenda.

Mr. Eric Cruse from the East Valley Coalition commented about activities that he has witnessed Waste Management engaging in that he feels are not consistent with their permit. Activities that he mentioned include offsite sorting at night and a rail spur to which he suspects Waste Management has a connection and for which no company will claim they have a permit. Ms. Landis stated the Task Force will add a question about the rail spur to the list of information they are requesting from Waste Management.

Ms. Margaret Clark stated that there is some concern about the scheduled July 17, 2003, Task Force meeting because there is a Mayor and Councilmember Forum on the same day. The Task Force decided to wait to see if a quorum can be established for the next meeting. If a quorum cannot be established, the meeting will be cancelled.

Mr. Mohajer stated that Councilmembers Ginger Bremberg and Lois Shade have resigned from their positions on the Task Force. He suggested that the Task Force should invite them to a meeting and present them with plaques for their years of service.

**XII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 17, 2003.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.