

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

Minutes of September 16, 2004

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
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries
Michael Miller, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Thomas L. Garthwaite, rep. by Stan Uyehara, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services
David Roberti, represented by Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Rita Robinson, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation
Jim Stahl, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Don Wolfe, rep. by Shari Afshari, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Works
Ben Wong, rep. by John McTaggart, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative
Ron Deaton, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Christopher J. Garner, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee
Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of L.A. DPW
Paul Alva, County of L.A. DPW
Maria Aquino, City of Arcadia
Fernando Berton, CIWMB
Toyasha Black, City of Arcadia
Tammy Evans, City of Monrovia
Benjamin Lucha, City of Santa Clarita
Mary Ann Lutz, Task Force Alternate

Kay Martin, County of Ventura
Hope McAloon, City of Burbank
Carolyn Meredith, City of Pasadena
Phil Morales, CIWMB
Carlos Ruiz, County of L.A. DPW
Coby Skye, County of L.A. DPW
Greg Shipley, Waste to Energy
Bob Weger, City of Glendale

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2004

A request was made to amend Section VI of the minutes to replace "California Disposal Association" with "Los Angeles County Disposal Association."

A motion was made to approve the minutes of August 19, 2004, as amended and passed unanimously.

III. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Paul Alva provided a summary of the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee meeting. Mr. Alva stated the Task Force had sent letters to material recovery facility (MRF) operators in southern California with regard to developing pilot demonstration conversion technology facilities and had requested responses by the end of the month. Preliminary responses from MRF operators in Ventura and Santa Clarita have been received.

Mr. Alva discussed the issue of contract deliverables and stated that five reports were to be submitted to the Subcommittee within the next four weeks. Mr. Alva suggested that the pilot demonstration facilities initially start at 100 tons per day (tpd) and have a modular capacity that allowed for future expansion.

Mr. Alva recommended the Task Force send a letter to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (Waste Board) thanking them for their efforts in developing conversion technologies, requesting the continuance and expansion of grant funding opportunities for the development of conversion technology facilities, and requesting the Waste Board to set aside money for visits to other conversion technology facilities for research. After some discussion, a motion was made to send the letter to the Waste Board. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. REPORT ON THE WASTE BOARD'S LIFE CYCLE AND MARKET IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF NONCOMBUSTION WASTE CONVERSION TECHNOLOGIES

Mr. Fernando Berton, of the Waste Board, presented the Waste Board's findings on its life cycle and market impact assessments of conversion technologies as they relate to AB 2770's requirements to describe and evaluate the environmental impact of conversion technologies on existing solid waste management practices. He outlined the studies conducted to

define conversion technologies and their system boundaries, focusing specifically on acid hydrolysis, gasification, and catalytic cracking. He stated that these studies had been peer-reviewed through the University of California, and methodologies adjusted according to comments received.

Mr. Berton described the various scenarios used to analyze conversion technologies, including: three 500 tpd acid hydrolysis plants, four 500 tpd gasification plants, and one 50 tpd catalytic cracking plant.

A question was raised regarding the selection of these scenarios. In response, Mr. Berton stated that these scenarios had been chosen based on data accessibility from existing facilities in other parts of the world. Mr. Berton stated that, when compared to conventional solid waste management practices such as landfilling, waste-to-energy, and composting, these facilities released energy and emitted lower levels of nitrogen oxide and sulfur oxide, in addition to producing the lowest level of carbon emissions.

Mr. Berton stated that data had been targeted from operating facilities in Japan and Europe, but due to the unavailability of some data, the Waste Board was unable to assess the potential for air pollutants, including dioxin and furan. A question was raised regarding the requirements associated with conversion technologies and the impact they would have on available markets. In response, Mr. Berton stated that the facilities would be co-located to take advantage of the existing waste collection infrastructure.

He emphasized that these facilities would vary in size from 2 to 5 acres and would require optimum feedstock, which would consequently lead to further front-end sorting of recyclable materials. He added that conversion technologies could actually enhance the recycling buy-back feedstock preparation, thereby decreasing the amount being landfilled in the end. Mr. Berton concluded that the study substantiated that conversion technologies are superior methods of waste management while recognizing that some additional data will be needed to assess potential production/emission of dioxins and furans.

V. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD

Mr. Phil Moralez, of the Waste Board, announced they would be conducting a workshop on October 5, 2004, to discuss future improvements to the existing diversion compliance system. Mr. Moralez distributed a handout that provided information on this workshop and encouraged comments and feedback (attached).

Mr. Moralez stated revisions to the regulations governing the diversion compliance system and the adjustment method for calculating diversion rates had been prepared and the formal rule-making process for the proposed

regulations had begun. He stated the first formal comment period began on September 3 and would continue through October 18, 2004, when all comments would be heard and addressed in a public hearing.

Mr. Morales added that the Waste Board intends on holding several workshops throughout California in order to present a report that is proactive and inclusive of input from all stakeholders.

VI. STATUS REPORT ON CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD'S SOLID WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLE RULE

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that the regulations were approved this summer and many waste haulers are experiencing difficulty with steadily increasing costs for the vehicle retrofitting. Mr. Mohajer added that there are two Bills, AB 923 and AB 1394, currently on the Governor's desk, which would provide a stable funding source to help waste haulers successfully replace or retrofit their equipment.

VII. STATUS ON SB 20 IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Mohajer stated that the Governor had approved AB 901 which extended the implementation date of the CRT recycling free from July 1, 2004 to November 1, 2004. Mr. Mohajer also stated there were several issues regarding SB 50, the 'clean-up' Bill for SB 20, that would impact the collection and reimbursement of electronic waste. These were:

- The authorization given to the Waste Board to review and adjust fees after conducting studies at least every two years to determine if said fees were sufficiently funding electronic waste recycling programs.
- The authorization to define eligibility of authorized collectors and authorized recyclers to receive reimbursement within an undefined timeframe.
- The availability of funds to pay off the \$30 million loan proposed by SB 50, and the lack of clearly defined restrictions on said loan.

Mr. Alva, the Project Manager of the Countywide Household Hazardous Waste/Electronic Waste Program, provided clarification regarding these issues, especially those surrounding the \$30 million loan. Mr. Alva stated the intent of this loan was to provide seed money that would allow the Board of Equalization (BOE) to revamp its computer system to meet current standards and provide the Waste Board with the funds necessary to jump start their program.

A question was raised about the Task Force's previous position on SB 50, which was expressed in a letter of support sent to the Governor.

SB 50's provisions were discussed at length and ultimately a motion was made to send a letter to the Governor requesting he veto the Bill because it failed to clearly stipulate what the \$30 million loan would be used for. The motion was opposed 7 to 3 with one member abstaining. The League of California Cities, the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, and the Environmental Organization representative voted in support of the motion. The General Public representative abstained.

VIII. STATUS ON THE DISPOSAL REPORTING SYSTEM AND ADJUSTMENT METHOD REGULATIONS

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa stated that the Waste Board had recently released its amended Disposal Reporting System and Adjustment Method regulations for a 45-day public review and comment period. The comment period will end on October 18, 2004. The revised regulations addressed concerns previously raised by the Task Force.

These amended regulations would require counties to gather information from landfills and transfer stations (attached). Mr. Aiyetiwa added that new requirements in the Waste Board's permitting process would require landfill operators to provide annual reports summarizing the waste density and air-space utilization factors of their landfills.

Mr. Aiyetiwa commented that said requirements would generate excessive amounts of duplicative data. He stated that such provisions went against the original intent of the Disposal Reporting System, whose purpose is to collect information which would assist the Waste Board in determining the diversion rates of each jurisdiction.

A motion was made for the Task Force to send a letter to the Waste Board recommending the removal of sections requiring duplicate reporting. The motion was approved unanimously.

IX. COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT AND SUMMARY PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Coby Skye stated that the Five-Year Review Report had been submitted to the Waste Board as scheduled and that, upon review of this Report, the Waste Board's Sustainability and Market Development Committee had approved the Report's findings and recommendation to revise the existing Siting Element and Summary Plan and develop environmental documents for the revision process. After distributing handouts that listed the goals, policies, and objectives of the Siting Element and Summary Plan (attached), Mr. Skye encouraged Task Force members to review said documents and provide comments at the October 21, 2004, meeting.

Mr. Skye added that revisions to the Siting Element and Summary Plan were anticipated to be a two-year process which would thoroughly address any potential impacts associated with the removal of Elsmere Canyon and Blind Canyon Landfills.

X. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Skye provided a status on Legislative Bills that were of interest to the Task Force (attached).

- AB 338—Introduced by Levine

Mr. Skye stated this Bill would specify use of asphalt containing crumb rubber by CalTrans.

A motion was made for Task Force to send a letter of support to the Governor. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 1466—Introduced by Koretz

Mr. Skye commented on the Governor's veto of AB 1466, which would authorize State agencies producing litter prevention or recycling education materials to incorporate the message, "Don't Trash California." Mr. Skye added that while the Governor vetoed the Bill, he implemented the goals through an Executive Order instead.

- AB 1873—Introduced by Hancock

Mr. Skye stated that AB 1873 was signed by the Governor. This Bill would extend the life of the Recycling Market Development Zone program from July 1, 2006 to July 2011.

- AB 2901—Introduced by Pavley and Kehoe

Mr. Skye discussed AB 2901, which would require cell phone retailers to accept and collect used cell phones for reuse, recycling, or proper disposal by July 1, 2006. Staff recommended Task Force to take a support position on this Bill.

A motion was made for the Task Force to send a letter of support. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 2176—Introduced by Montanez

Mr. Skye commented on the recent revisions to AB 2176, which would require the Waste Board to provide a “model ordinance.” This ordinance would be for local jurisdictions to adopt, enhance, or start recycling programs at large venues. The Bill would require each jurisdiction to gather and submit annual reports of the recycling performance at the top ten percent of the large venues. This information would then be used to recommend Legislative changes for recycling programs.

The Bill would also prohibit local agencies, beginning July 1, 2005, from issuing building permits to development projects unless areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials are provided. Staff recommended Task Force take a position opposing this Bill.

A motion was made for Task Force to send a letter of opposition. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 21, 2004, at 1 p.m.

XII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mohajer requested the Task Force include on its website correspondence, staff reports, Legislative decisions, and attachments to minutes when possible. Mr. Mohajer also suggested that e-Recycling of California be invited to present at the October 21, 2004, meeting. In addition, he requested a copy of the letter regarding Bradley Landfill be sent to the Los Angeles City mayor, building department, and the fire department.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.