

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

**Minutes of February 23, 2006**

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Albert Avoian, Business/Commerce Representative  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities—Los Angeles Division  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles Appointee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Dr. Bruce Chernof, rep. by Stan Uyehara, County of L.A. Dept. of Health Services  
Rita Robinson, rep. 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 Carlos Ruiz, County of L.A. Dept. of Public Works  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Mark Waronek, rep. by Michael Miller, League of CA Cities—Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine F. Andersen, City of Long Beach  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles Appointee  
Joe Massey, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles Appointee  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association

OTHERS PRESENT:

Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles  
Kit Cole, Waste Management, Inc.  
Kimberly Cook, Waste Management, Inc.  
Carl Kalscheuer, City of Azusa  
Lara Klaheju, City of La Habra Heights  
Mike Lara, City of Pasadena  
Travis Lange, City of Santa Clarita  
John McTaggart, General Public Representative Alternate  
Lee Miller, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Mary Misemer, Department of Toxic Substances Control  
Fred Rubin, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Steven L. Samaniego, City of West Covina  
Isabel Schleif, City of Covina  
Ursula Schmidt, City of Pasadena  
Mary Goytia Strauss, City of La Canada Flintridge  
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m.

Ms. Margaret Clark announced the following changes to the Task Force membership:

- Councilmember Greig Smith was appointed by the City of Los Angeles to fill their vacancy.
- Councilmember Mark Waronek from the City of Lomita was appointed by the League of California Cities, Los Angeles Division, to replace former Councilmember Ben Wong of the City of West Covina.
- Mr. John McTaggart is now an alternate for the Board of Supervisors general public representative. He was formerly an alternate for the League of California Cities.
- The League of California Cities appointed Ms. Mary Ann Lutz, who was formerly an alternate for the League of California Cities, and appointed Mr. Michael Miller as the alternate.
- Dr. Bruce Chernof, Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services will assume Dr. Thomas L. Garthwaite's former position.

## **II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2006**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of January 19, 2006. The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that the Public Education and Information Subcommittee met on February 22, 2006. There was an increase in participation as a result of the letter that was sent to all of the city mayors. This included representatives from the cities of Pomona, Signal Hill, Azusa, Inglewood, and Los Angeles.

The Subcommittee approved two articles to be published in *Inside Solid Waste*, Spring 2006 edition, "The Billion Bottle March" from the City of El Monte and "Building Dedicated to Honor Ginger Bremberg," regarding former Vice-Chair Ginger Bremberg (see attachment). Mr. Mohajer added that on January 24, 2006, the City of Glendale dedicated the Integrated Waste Management Building to Mrs. Bremberg for her work and dedication to solid waste management issues. Mr. Mohajer briefly noted Mrs. Bremberg's influence on the City of Glendale, the former Waste Management Board, the Task Force, and the League of California Cities.

A motion was made to send a congratulatory letter to Mrs. Bremberg on the City of Glendale's honor, and also offer condolences for the loss of her husband. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was also made to send a press release regarding Mrs. Bremberg's honor to newspapers throughout the County. The motion passed unanimously.

Additional articles will be prepared, and upon approval, will be published in the next or subsequent issue of *Inside Solid Waste*. Those articles include multi-residential recycling, the legislative update, universal waste regulations, and the Sanitation Districts' green waste composting facility in Riverside.

#### **IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Coby Skye reported that the State BioEnergy Interagency Working Group will have a meeting in Sacramento on March 9, 2006. This Working Group is a task force of state agencies that are trying to increase the use of biomass energy throughout the state. Their draft action plan includes conversion technologies. Mr. Skye also indicated that the Waste Board is sponsoring a workshop focusing on conversion technologies on April 17 and 18, 2006.

The City of Los Angeles is working with Senator Alarcon's office to conduct a summit on conversion technology. The details of the summit have not been finalized, but Mr. Skye will inform the Task Force and the Subcommittee of any news.

The Subcommittee's proposal for involving their stakeholders through an advisory group will be finalized in March 2006. The strategy is to reach out to other regulatory agencies, environmental groups, local advocacy groups, and citizens affected by the plans to develop a demonstration facility. The Subcommittee wants to address any questions or concerns, and obtain support for conversion technology as early as possible.

The Subcommittee is working on two Requests for Proposals (RFPs). Proposals for the facilitation contract were due February 21, 2006, and three were submitted. The Subcommittee has scheduled meetings in early March to review these and make a recommendation for a contractor. The public outreach RFP will be released this summer.

The Subcommittee heard presentations from Choren Industries, and from ArrowBio Technologies. ArrowBio Technologies uses anaerobic digestion to

process municipal solid waste. ArrowBio Technologies was not able to make a presentation at today's Task Force meeting.

Mr. Mohajer stated the planned Waste Board conversion technology workshop on April 17 and 18, is in reaction to Assembly Bill (AB) 1090 dying. This workshop is a replication of the events that occurred in 2000, after AB 1939 died.

Mr. Mohajer gave some background on the Waste Board workshop in 2000. The workshop was attended by the former Waste Board Chair, and most of the Board members. The result, of the workshop were recommendations, which the Waste Board adopted. However, no further action was taken by the Waste Board.

Mr. Mohajer indicated that AB 2770 allocated one and a half million dollars to the Waste Board to study conversion technology. The resulting report indicated conversion technology is beneficial and may even be better than recycling. The Waste Board approved this report in March 2004, but later withdrew its approval of the report.

The Task Force has attempted to ascertain the status of the AB 2770 report and its supplemental report, which includes the deleted items. However, a response is yet to be received. A motion was made to forward a letter to the Waste Board for a status of AB 2770 report to the Legislature and the supplemental report. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer provided a memo regarding AB 2118 (see attachment). After reviewing AB 2118, a replacement for AB 1090, he described the deficiencies of the Bill. AB 2118 defines conversion technology facilities as disposal facilities which are to be identified in the Countywide Siting Element. The conversion technology facility has to produce physical products, and there will be no diversion credit.

The facility must meet five requirements before the enforcement agency can issue a solid waste facility permit. The two most problematic requirements are that the facility must maintain or enhance environmental benefits, and must maintain or enhance economic sustainability. Ultimately, AB 2118, will hinder the development of conversion technology facilities. Mr. Mohajer noted that the Bill will be heard on March 23 by the Assembly Natural Resources Committee.

A motion was made to send a letter of opposition to the author of AB 2118 and to send a letter requesting all cities to also oppose the Bill. The motion passed with one abstention from the representative of the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

## **V. PRESENTATION ON CHOREN INDUSTRIES**

Mr. Richard Peterson of CHOREN Industries conducted the presentation on their advanced gasification program (see attachment). CHOREN stands for Carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen, and Renewable. Its philosophy is to fulfill today's energy needs with renewable and sustainable domestic resources. CHOREN uses conversion technology to convert biomass into liquid transport fuels and electricity.

Mr. Peterson provided a brief history of CHOREN Industries. He explained that, with the support of DaimlerChrysler and Volkswagon, CHOREN was able to develop a process that can replicate nature's crude oil evolution in about 24 hours. CHOREN has a proprietary gasification system able to directly convert biomass into a tar-free synthetic gas. He also described how the synthetic gas is produced and then used to produce diesel fuel, jet fuel, and gasoline.

Mr. Peterson also discussed the company's Fischer-Tropsch process which converts carbon based material, natural gas, or biomass into a synthetic, ultra clean fuel. He stated this is the fuel of the future in the automobile industry. Fischer-Tropsch fuels meet the EPA low emission requirements and can be used in existing engines or facilities.

CHOREN is identifying six locations in the U.S. to build plants, and has identified California as a primary market for the fuel. Legislation needs to be passed for Fischer-Tropsch fuel to be successful and divert waste. The government needs to continue to provide the incentives and support that make large scale investments in bio-energy technology evolution financially viable.

## **VI. DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL PRESENTATION ON UNIVERSAL WASTE**

Ms. Mary Misemer, of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), conducted the presentation on the universal waste regulation (see attachment). She stated universal waste is hazardous waste that presents the greatest hazards to the environment and health in large quantities. The goal of the DTSC is to remove all hazardous waste from landfills. The ban of universal waste from landfills went into effect on February 9, 2006.

Examples of universal waste are household batteries, fluorescent light tubes, sodium and mercury thermostats, vapor lamps, any mercury lamps, cathode ray tubes, television sets, computer monitors, computers, VCRs, cell phones, printers, telephones, radios, and microwave ovens. Items such as mercury-

containing devices from the industrial and medical industries were also added to the universal waste list.

Mr. Paul Alva clarified the Task Force's concerns regarding local agencies' role with universal waste. These included reimbursement to local agencies for universal waste collection events, load check program, and expectation of compliance.

Ms. Misemer reiterated that DTSC can only comment on legislation and does not make legislation. Enforcement efforts are only conducted when there is a high risk of illegal activity. Inspections are conducted mostly with electronic waste processors. Local enforcement agencies are responsible for solid waste management issues, unless there is a serious risk. DTSC would then get involved.

Mr. Mohajer stated that passing these rules and regulations exposes local governments to lawsuits. DTSC implements regulations without a plan, and local government is left to deal with funding and enforcement issues. Mr. Alva also stated that the Waste Board provides funds to new hazardous waste programs, not existing ones. Los Angeles County is being penalized for having an established program.

A motion was made to send a letter to DTSC regarding the Task Force's concerns with the universal waste landfill ban and liability of jurisdictions. The motion passed unanimously (Greig Smith being absent).

## **VII. REPORT FROM THE CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

Mr. Steve Uselton was not able to attend today's meeting and an update from the Waste Board will be provided at next month's meeting. Ms. Margaret Clark announced that jurisdictions' Annual Reports to the Waste Board are due on March 1, 2006.

## **VIII. CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD'S PROPOSED PERMIT IMPLEMENTATION REGULATIONS**

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa reported the Waste Board responded to the Task Force's December 15, 2005 letter on January 23, 2006 (see attachment). The Waste Board's letter reasserts its position that they do not have the authority to deny a proposed solid waste facilities permit on the grounds that it conflicts with local zoning or a conditional use permit for the site. The Waste Board does not have the authority to interfere in local land use decisions.

Staff reviewed the letter and found that it did not address the basic premise of the Task Force's concern of the inconsistency with the host jurisdiction's land use permit requirements and the facility's California Environmental Quality Act approval process. The inconsistency with the land use permit would create confusion among decision makers and the public.

A motion was made to authorize staff to work with the Waste Board staff to resolve those issues. The motion passed unanimously (Greig Smith being absent).

## **IX. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Skye indicated the City of Los Angeles passed the Renew L.A. Plan on February 17, 2006, with the help of Councilmember Greig Smith. Mr. Skye also reported Californians Against Waste (CAW) is planning to expand Senate Bill 20, California's E-waste Recovery law to cover additional electronic waste. The CAW's legislative agenda was also distributed for the members' information (see attachment).

Mr. Skye provided a status on the following Legislative Bills (see attachment):

- AB 1866-Introduced by Karnette

This Bill would prohibit a State facility from selling, possessing, or distributing polystyrene food containers. This would be a major impact for state and local government. A motion to watch this Bill was made. The motion passed unanimously.

- AB 1688-Introduced by Niello

This Bill would authorize illegal dumping officers to enforce illegal dumping laws. The Task Force did not take a position on this Bill.

- AB 1992-Introduced by Canciamilla

Currently, there is a lesser know State law that makes it a misdemeanor to illegally dump waste. This Bill would strengthen this law. A motion to support the Bill was made. The motion passed unanimously (Greig Smith being absent).

## **X. REPORT ON AB 1688**

Mr. Gary Harris was unable to attend today's meeting.

**XI. REPORT ON BRADLEY LANDFILL'S DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)**

Mr. Siya Araumi conducted the presentation on the Bradley Landfill and Recycling Center's Transition Master Plan Draft EIR (see attachment). In January 2006, the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning released the Bradley Landfill Draft EIR for public review. The deadline to provide comments is April 5, 2006.

The project applicant is Waste Management Recycling and Disposal services of California, Inc. Bradley Landfill is a Class III landfill surrounded by commercial and industrial properties, and some residential. There are two sub areas of the landfill, Bradley East and Bradley West/West extension. Bradley East is closed, but Bradley West/West Extension is open and is the only area that accepts waste.

The applicant's stated purpose for the project is to provide for an orderly transition of the Bradley Landfill site from an active landfill to a transfer station/materials recovery facility operation. As part of this transition, the applicant, among other things, is requesting a 43 foot vertical expansion to the landfill resulting in an additional 3.5 million tons of capacity. It also includes a reduction in permitted disposal rate from 10,000 to 7,000 tons per day until the closure of the landfill operations or April 14, 2007, or when it reaches maximum capacity.

A motion for a letter to be sent to the City of Los Angeles Planning Department commenting on the Bradley Landfill Draft EIR was made. The motion passed unanimously (Greig Smith being absent).

**XII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Next meeting date is tentatively set for Thursday, March 16, 2006, at 1 p.m.

**XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Karen Coca of the City of Los Angeles informed the Task Force of a January article in the *Los Angeles Times*, which highlighted a recycling facility which accepts the City of Los Angeles' curbside recyclables. She stated the City's Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) received a letter from the Waste Board directing them to issue a cease and desist order to close the featured recycling facility because, by the center's own admission, they had more than 10 percent residuals. The LEA stated they would investigate the issue, since they do not close a facility, based solely on an article. However, two weeks later, the recycling facility obtained a Solid Waste Facility Permit, no longer limiting it to 10 percent residuals.

Ms. Coca stated the concern is that many recycling facilities get more than 10 percent residuals. If the Waste Board continues to require the closure of these facilities through all LEAs, we may not have facilities to recycle our curbside recyclables. Ms. Coca stated the City will work with the Waste Board Members to introduce a motion to revisit the facility tiering regulations. Ms. Coca will keep the Task Force informed.

Mr. Mohajer announced that there are four new Waste Board Members. These include Ms. Margo Reid Brown, the new Chair, who replaced Ms. Rosario Marin; Ms. Pat Wiggins replaced Mr. Carl Washington; Mr. Gary Petersen was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger, and is awaiting Senate confirmation; and Jeffrey Danzinger was appointed on February 10, 2006.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.