

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

Minutes of August 21, 2008

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
Margaret Clark, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Ron Saldana, Private Sector Representative

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:**

Dean Efstathiou, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health  
Stephen Maguin, rep. by Christopher Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Gerry Miller, represented by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

Christine Andersen, City of Long Beach  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Sya Araumi, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Art Caballero, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Wayde Hunter, County/City Community Advisory Committee and North Valley Coalition  
Armine Kesabyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Anna Long, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale  
Carol Ly, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Mario Nunez, City of Glendale  
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita  
David Perez, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Steven Samaniego, City of West Covina  
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Hossein Torabzadeh, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Duy Tran, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Glenda Vaquerano, MWW Group  
Neonika Walker, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Carlyle Workman, City of Lancaster

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 17, 2008**

A motion was made to approve the corrected minutes of July 17, 2008. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Mike Mohajer and Mr. Chris Salomon abstaining.

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

Mr. Mohajer reported that the subcommittee met on August 12, 2008, and considered the following articles for the next edition of *Inside Solid Waste*:

1. three Department of Public Works articles: the first regarding the implementation of the Department's internal recycling program, the second in reference to the update on Sunshine Canyon Landfill, and the third on the Department's program to manage sharps waste
2. an article from the City of Calabasas on the adoption of an ordinance requiring the city to meet a 75 percent diversion rate by 2012
3. an article on AB 2296, Landfill Financial Assurance, as well as a legislative update
4. an article regarding the Waste Board's directive to phase out greenwaste as ADC

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

Ms. Tobie Mitchell reported that the subcommittee met earlier in the day and discussed the offers the County received for the Southern California Conversion Technology Demonstration Project. She stated that an evaluation team comprised of Subcommittee members, staff, and County contract personnel will thoroughly review the offers received.

The evaluation team will also conduct an initial review of the request for proposals (RFP) to be sent to selected technical consultants for work on phases three and four of the Southern California Conversion Technology Demonstration Project.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Subcommittee met earlier in the day to consider a Finding of Conformance (FOC) for Sunshine Canyon Landfill City/County Project (Sunshine Canyon Landfill). She stated that BFI's application for an FOC is almost

complete except for two items that staff was directed to verify: a) moisture content of waste deposited at the landfill is less than 50 percent and b) a clear description of BFI's current diversion activities.

In addition, Ms. Landis stated that the main obstacle to granting an FOC for Sunshine Canyon Landfill is that BFI does not yet have authority to operate the joint city/county project. She reported that the Subcommittee voted to have staff draft an FOC to be held in advance until the Subcommittee receives correspondence from the City of Los Angeles approving the opening of Phase II of the City Project.

**VI. UPDATE ON SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL (CITY/COUNTY PROJECT) FINDING OF CONFORMANCE**

See item V above.

**VII. PRESENTATION ON THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH DISEASE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM**

Ms. Anna Long of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health conducted a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on its Disease Prevention Demonstration Program. She stated that the program was implemented in 2005 after the Governor signed SB 1159 in 2004. The program allows pharmacies to sell up to ten syringes without prescription to persons over the age of 18.

She stated that the major underlining reason for the program is to prevent the spread of HIV and other blood-borne diseases, like hepatitis C, that are transmitted when syringe users share needles. Ms. Long stated that research shows that increasing access to sterile syringes is cost-effective, and has strong support from legal, scientific, and medical bodies, like the American Medical Association.

She reported that 19 jurisdictions in Los Angeles County have implemented the program. The County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health began implementing the program in 2007 and has enrolled 275 pharmacies to participate in the program. The City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services has enrolled 19 pharmacies.

She stated that the major unresolved issue for the program is proper disposal of used syringes. While the City and County of Los Angeles run needle exchange programs and County Public Health Centers have begun accepting used needles, less than five pharmacies participating in the program accept used sharps from customers. She stated that program findings will be evaluated in 2010, when the program sunsets.

### **VIII. PRESENTATION ON THE NEW SHARPS WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM**

Ms. Neonika Walker and Ms. Armine Kesablyan of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works provided a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on the County's Home-Generated Sharps Waste Management Program.

Ms. Kesablyan stated that starting September 1, 2008, SB 1305 makes it illegal to dispose of home-generated sharps waste in trash, recycling, greenwaste, or commercial containers. The new law also requires that sharps waste be transported or mailed to an authorized facility using an approved sharps container. She stated that the law encourages Cities, Counties, and manufacturers to develop programs and services to assist with proper management of sharps waste.

Ms. Kesablyan stated that a State grant made it possible for the County to purchase State-approved sharps containers for free distribution to residents, and to also designate additional collection outlets for the safe and proper disposal of sharps waste. Permanent collection centers and the weekly countywide mobile collection events will continue to receive sharps waste, as they have done for years. She noted that the County would assist interested Cities to designate additional sites to conveniently serve the residents. Ms. Kesablyan encouraged the Cities to educate and create awareness in their communities on proper sharps waste disposal.

Ms. Walker stated that the goal of the program is to provide convenient and accessible means for residents to properly dispose of home-generated sharps waste. She explained that sharps waste generated in homes include devices such as hypodermic needles, pen needles, syringes, lancets, and any other device used to penetrate the skin.

She stated that residents can obtain free sharps containers at designated distribution sites; full containers can be returned at designated collection sites. Distribution and collection sites include Los Angeles County's mobile collection events, City of Los Angeles S.A.F.E. centers (six locations), Antelope Valley Environmental Collection Center, and Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (14 health centers). Distribution only sites include Goodwill stores (over 16 locations), City of West Covina (two locations), City of San Dimas, Public Works Headquarters, and the County's mobile collection events.

Ms. Walker stated that through effective outreach, program administrators seek to increase the amount of sharps waste collected annually, the number of available convenient sharps consolidation points, as well as to create partnerships with Cities, pharmacies, medical facilities, and retail stores to expand program participation. She

stated that a comprehensive outreach campaign to promote the new program to County residents is an essential component of the program.

## **IX. UPDATE ON AB 2296, LANDFILL FINANCIAL ASSURANCE**

Mr. Mohajer reported that on August 18, 2008, he sent an e-mail ([see attachment](#)) to the Waste Board expressing outstanding concerns regarding AB 2296. Mr. Mohajer outlined three issues in his correspondence:

1. the Task Force's opposition to the creation of a "pooled fund" which would provide financial protection for landfill owners/operators in case they default on their post-closure maintenance and corrective action obligations
2. the need for clearly defining what constitutes "repair" and "replacement" to distinguish whether activities fall under post-closure maintenance or under corrective action and whether these activities require financial assurance
3. the proposed "Step Down" mechanism that allows the release of post-closure maintenance funds to landfill owner/operators after an initial 15 years of the landfill closure and with five-year reductions subsequently (this is a critical issue because a situation could arise several years after the closure of the landfill and there would be no revenue resources to address it)

Mr. Mohajer reported, however, that the Waste Board adopted the "pool fund" and "step down" provisions.

A motion was made to send a follow-up letter to the Governor and the Waste Board reiterating the concerns presented by Mr. Mohajer. The motion passed unanimously with Mr. Salomon abstaining.

## **X. UPDATE ON AB 501, AB 2640, AB 2886, SB 1016, AND SB 1020**

Mr. Mohajer reported that SB 1020 failed in the Assembly, and AB 2640 and AB 2886 failed in the Senate. He reported, however, that Senator Padilla, the author of SB 1020, has proposed an amendment to SB 1252 ([see attachment](#)), which passed the Senate and Assembly, to eliminate the existing language in SB 1252 and replace it with the language in SB 1020 as well as language in AB 2640 and AB 2886.

Mr. Mohajer reported that Senator Wiggins, the author of SB 1016, agreed to include legislative intent language in the Bill that says that it is not the purpose of the legislation to focus solely on mathematical compliance. He stated that the Bill has significantly improved since its original version. A motion was made to send a letter to the Governor in support of SB 1016 once the Bill passes the Assembly. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer reported that AB 501 has been enrolled. He stated that the Task Force's position on AB 501 is to "support and amend" and that letters from the Task Force were sent to all cities in the County encouraging them to adopt the same position. A motion was made to send a letter to the Governor urging him to sign AB 501. The motion passed unanimously.

## **XI. PRESENTATION BY CLEAN ENERGY FUELS**

Mr. Sean Wine and Mr. Raymond Burke of Clean Energy Fuels (Clean Energy) provided a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on natural gas powered refuse trucks. Mr. Wine stated that Clean Energy is the largest provider of vehicular natural gas (NG) in North America. The company designs, builds, and operates NG stations; it has over 170 stations in operation with over 14,000 customer vehicles fueled daily, including over 800 refuse trucks. Clean Energy also works with waste haulers to obtain grant funding through the Air Board for the purchase of NG refuse trucks.

Mr. Wine stated that NG is cheaper than diesel. The price of compressed natural gas (CNG), including infrastructure costs, is currently about \$2.50 per gallon while diesel is \$4.40 per gallon. He noted that a Federal tax credit of up to 80 percent of incremental costs is available for end users of dedicated natural gas vehicles.

According to Mr. Burke, the Cummins ISL G engine, NG engine for refuse trucks, reduces green house gas emissions by 23 percent compared to diesel engines, and meets 2010 EPA emission standards. In addition, operation costs for NG engine trucks are similar to diesel engine trucks. Mr. Burke stated that NG world reserves are three times larger than oil reserves, and that domestic reserves are estimated at 140 years at the current consumption rate. He stated that 98 percent of NG serving the U.S. is produced in North America.

## **XII. STATUS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WASTE BOARD'S LANDFILL GAS CONTROL AND MONITORING REGULATIONS FOR ACTIVE SITES**

Mr. Mohajer stated that the Task Force has been working with the Waste Board to develop regulations for landfill gas monitoring and control. He stated that the Task Force provided comments on the subject in a letter dated October 30, 2006, to the Waste Board's Permitting and Enforcing Division ([see attachment](#)).

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Waste Board adopted regulations in September 2007 and gave landfill operators until September 20, 2008, to comply with such regulations. However, most of the landfill operators have expressed to the Waste Board that they will be unable to comply by the due date. Mr. Mohajer reported that the Waste Board

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will extend the compliance date, subject to a number of requirements, to September 20, 2009.

Mr. Mohajer stated that the Task Force will continue to work closely with the Waste Board on the subject and that he will provide monthly updates on any developments, as well as any communications between the Task Force and the Waste Board.

**XIII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Ms. Virginia Jauregui reported that August 22, 2008, is the deadline for the legislature to amend bills ([see table attached](#)) on the floor and must pass all bills to the Governor by September 30, 2008. The Governor then has until October 30, 2008 to sign or veto bills. She also reported that AB 2058, aimed at reducing the single use of plastic bags, remains in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

A motion was made to forward support letters to the Governor for enrolled bills for which the Task Force has taken a “support” or “support and amend” position. The motion passed unanimously.

**XIV. REPORT FROM THE WASTE BOARD**

No Action. Item postponed until next meeting.

**XV. NEXT MEETING DATE—TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008**

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2008, at 1 p.m., subject to members’ availability.

**XVI. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.