

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

Minutes of October 16, 2008

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  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Ron Saldana, Private Sector Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Dean Efstathiou, represented by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, represented by Ken Murray, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health  
Stephen Maguin, represented by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, represented by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Enrique Zaldivar, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Christine Andersen, City of Long Beach  
Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles  
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
Greig Smith, City of Los Angeles

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Siya Araumi, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Russell Bukoff, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Susan V. Collins, R3 Consulting Group  
Chris Fall, Rent – A – Bin  
Rafael Garcia, Allied Waste  
Eric Herbert, Athens Services  
Wayde Hunter, County/City Community Advisory Committee and North Valley Coalition  
John Kaddis, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health  
Duane McDonald, Athens Services  
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Hossein Torabzadeh, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 21, 2008**

A motion was made to approve the corrected minutes of August 21, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Tobie Mitchell reported that the Subcommittee met on September 25, 2008. She indicated that the session included the first meeting of the Evaluation Team in charge of reviewing the five offers received for the Southern California Conversion Technology Project (County Project). Ms. Mitchell stated that the Evaluation Team will reconvene at the next Subcommittee meeting on October 21, 2008.

Ms. Mitchell also reported that the Southern California Waste Management Forum will be held on November 6, 2008, in Ontario, California. The Forum will include a session on conversion technology with speeches from Coby Skye of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and Greig Smith and Alex Helou of the City of Los Angeles.

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

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Subcommittee met earlier in the day to review and discuss the second draft revisions to Chapter 4 of the Countywide Siting Element. Subcommittee staff was instructed to incorporate the revisions into the chapter and resubmit to the Subcommittee for further review.

Ms. Landis also reported that the Subcommittee considered a proposed amendment ([see attachment](#)) to the City of Santa Clarita's Non-Disposal Facility Element (NDFE) to add a Rent-A-Bin facility to the list of facilities in the document. The facility is currently permitted for 3 operations: inert operations (up to 1,499 tons per day), chipping and grinding operations (up to 199 tons per day), and construction and demolition and inert debris (CDI) operations (up to 24 tons per day). The facility is proposing to increase their permitted capacity of CDI operations from 24 tons per day to 175 tons per day.

A motion was introduced to approve the staff's recommendation to amend the City of Santa Clarita's NDFE providing that the City adheres to the following requirements: a) Including in the NDFE all operations occurring at the site, b) Monitoring compliance with

storm water permit, and c) Obtaining copies of quarterly statements of monthly reports submitted by the facility to the Department of Public Works. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. CONSIDERATION OF AMENDMENT TO CITY OF SANTA CLARITA'S NON-DISPOSABLE FACILITY ELEMENT**

See Item IV above.

**VI. PRESENTATION ON SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL (CITY/COUNTY PROJECT) LOCAL ENFORCEMENT AGENCY**

Mr. Ken Murray of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health provided a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on the new Local Enforcement Agency for the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Mr. Murray noted that the landfill is jurisdictionally shared between the City of Los Angeles and the County. The owner of the landfill, BFI/Allied Waste, plans to combine the County and City portions of the landfill into one and use the airspace between them. BFI/Allied Waste proposed the creation of a single Enforcement Agency (EA) to regulate the landfill. The State, County and City agreed with the proposal and entered into a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that established the new Enforcement Agency. The agreement was ratified in May of 2008.

Mr. Murray stated that the jurisdiction of the new EA is limited to Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The new EA will be governed by a five-member Board of Directors, which includes a member appointed by the County Board of Supervisors, a member appointed by the City Council and Mayor, a designee from the County Department of Public Health and a designee from the City Environmental Affairs. These four members will appoint a Technical Member as the fifth member of the Board. In addition, a three-member Independent Hearing Panel will be appointed by the EA Board of Directors. The Agency will be staffed by City and County EA personnel but will function as a separate entity.

**VII. UPDATE ON AB 2296, LANDFILL FINANCIAL ASSURANCE**

Mr. Mike Mohajer provided an update on AB 2296, Landfill Financial Assurance ([see attachment](#)). Mr. Mohajer reported that no major developments had occurred since his last update to the Task Force on the subject. He indicated that the Waste Board will include an item on the Landfill Financial Assurance on its November meeting agenda and that the rulemaking process is expected to take place in December.

### **VIII. UPDATE ON BLUEFIRE PROJECT IN THE ANTELOPE VALLEY**

Mr. Paul Alva of the Department of Public Works provided an update on the BlueFire Waste-to-Ethanol Facility Project (BlueFire) in the Antelope Valley. Mr. Alva reported that in July 2008 the County Regional Planning Commission approved a conditional use permit (CUP) for the BlueFire facility, and that BlueFire is the first commercial waste-to-ethanol conversion technology facility to be permitted in California.

Mr. Alva indicated that the BlueFire facility is located adjacent to the Lancaster Landfill in the unincorporated area of Los Angeles County. The BlueFire facility, with a processing capacity of 170 tons per day, will use a two-step process to convert source separated materials, including greenwaste and woodwaste, into ethanol. Acid will be used to break down the waste and then a fermentation process will be used to convert the broken down waste to ethanol.

BlueFire will generate approximately 3 million gallons of ethanol per year to be sold to local ethanol markets. Mr. Alva reported that the BlueFire project expects to capitalize on the growing demand for ethanol in California, where about a billion gallons of ethanol are used per year.

Mr. Alva noted that the BlueFire project brings several benefits to the region which include a reduction in the need for landfills, a decrease in green-house gas emissions, a reduction on the importation of ethanol from the Midwest to California, and the creation of green-collar jobs.

Mr. Alva reported that in August of this year, an appeal against the Regional Planning Commission's decision to grant a CUP for the BlueFire facility was filed with the Board of Supervisors. In response, on October 1, 2008, the County conducted a special public information meeting to obtain further feedback from the community. The Board of Supervisors will consider the appeal on October 28, 2008.

A motion was made to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors expressing the Task Force's support for the BlueFire waste-to-ethanol project. The motion passed unanimously.

### **IX. UPDATE ON AQMD'S LAWSUIT AGAINST ATHENS SERVICES**

Mr. Jay Chen of the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) provided an update on the lawsuit against Athens Services (Athens). Mr. Chen stated that in 2005, Athens was issued a revised Conditional Use Permit allowing them to incrementally extend their throughput from 1,920 to 5,000 tons per day. The revised permit required Athens to enclose their entire operation and install a new ventilation system for odor control.

Construction of the new system was completed in early 2007 and Athens has increased their throughput to about 3,000 tons per day.

Mr. Chen noted that the new odor control system was not properly installed, operated and maintained, which resulted in continued odor complaints that led to additional notices of violation being issued to Athens. In the latter part of 2007, AQMD filed a petition with its hearing board to request an order for abatement which was granted on July 24, 2008. Unfortunately, AQMD and Athens were unable to reach an agreement to address all violation issues and AQMD filed a lawsuit against Athens as part of the enforcement action.

Ms. Carol Engelhardt, the attorney for AQMD, elaborated that there are two legal actions against Athens. The first is a writ of administrative mandate and the second seeks civil penalties in a lawsuit filed in the City of Pomona. Ms. Engelhardt indicated that during the construction process of the new odor control system, Athens has incurred additional violations. Since some of the violations have not been resolved within the three-year limitation, AQMD has decided to file the lawsuit as part of the enforcement action. Ms. Engelhardt indicated that the AQMD's position is to stop the odor since the installed control systems either did not work or were never put into effect. She noted that the hearing Board also ordered Athens to limit its throughput to 3,000 tons per day. Athens has filed an appeal but the court declined to suspend the hearing board order. A final decision on Athens' appeal is scheduled to be heard in December of this year.

Mr. Chen added that the air quality has improved and the odors are not as frequent and intense. However, the improvement has not done enough to completely eliminate the odors. Mr. Chen noted that the AQMD hopes that Athens will continue to improve the system and eliminate the odors completely.

Mr. Eric Herbert of Athens Services stated that, as a result of neighbor concerns, Athens and the AQMD have agreed on a new odor control system. He reported that the facility was enclosed to avoid particulate matter from escaping. In addition, ten ceiling fans with carbon activated filters were installed to eliminate particulate odor matter. He reported that these fans are continuously running and required a high level of energy to operate and Athens is working with Edison to optimize the operation and reduce the level of power consumption.

Mr. Herbert noted that there were technical and maintenance issues with the new system, which prevented it from operating properly. He stated that those issues have been resolved. Mr. Herbert stated that Athens strives to operate the facility in a manner that is acceptable to the neighborhood and that every complaint from neighbors is addressed in a timely fashion. In his view, Athens has established the most rigorous

emission control system in California and hopes that such system will become the gold standard in design and operation.

## **X. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Coby Skye reported that the 2007-2008 legislative session ended and only five Bills ([see legislative table attached](#)) for which the Task Force had taken a position reached the Governor's desk. Mr. Skye indicated that three of the Bills were signed by the Governor while two were vetoed. The Bills are the following:

1. AB 1860—introduced by Huffman

This Bill aims to ensure that manufacturers properly handle recalled products. This Bill was signed into law.

2. SB 1016—introduced by Wiggins

This Bill is a reconfiguration of the AB 939 reporting system. This Bill shifts the reporting system from a diversion-based system to a per-capita disposal-based system. This Bill was signed into law.

3. SB 1357—introduced by Padilla

This Bill makes an additional \$20 million in funds available, between July 1, 2009 and January 1, 2012, for regional beverage container recycling and litter reduction programs. The Bill was signed into law.

4. AB 501—introduced by Swanson and Hancock

This Bill would require manufacturers of pre-filled sharps to provide customers with a container for safe storage and transport of home generated sharps to a collection center. This Bill was vetoed. The Governor's veto message stated that the Bill should have included all types of sharps and involved all manufacturers, so hopefully the next legislative session will see the passage and signing of a more comprehensive sharps bill.

5. AB 1391—introduced by Brownley

This Bill would require retailers that sell covered electronic devices (CED) to direct customers to the Waste Board's website for instruction on proper disposal of CEDs. This Bill was vetoed because information on proper disposal of CEDs is already widely available.

## **XI. REPORT FROM THE CIWMB**

Mr. Steve Uselton of the CIWMB (Waste Board) reported on the following items:

1. 2005-06 biennial reviews:

Waste Board staff has completed preliminary reviews of the 50 percent diversion requirement for all jurisdictions in the Los Angeles County. Waste Board staff had reviewed reports from 72 jurisdictions and had found 61 in compliance with the requirement, 5 had made a good faith effort, and 1 required a compliance order. 5 jurisdictions were not reviewed for this cycle as they are under compliance. Staff recommendations will be presented to the December 11, 2008, Waste Board meeting in Diamond Bar.

2. Revised Recycling Market Development Zones (RMDZ) loan criteria and project eligibility. The following regulations will be effective for loan applications coming to the Waste Board starting December 2008:

- Environmental justice will be discontinued from the reporting demographic information in the loan agenda item
- Loan applicants will be required to meet the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign requirement and use loan funds to purchase recycled content products or materials; an annual purchase report will be submitted to the Waste Board
- A primary single family home can now be considered as collateral for a loan. However, it will be determined on a case by case basis
- Loan interest rate will now be equal to the State Surplus Money Investment Fund rate, but it will be no less than four percent

3. Zone-Works training workshop:

These workshops would provide an opportunity for RMDZ administrators in the region to interact with loan and real state officers, as well as other business professionals, and to learn how to work with them to help potential RMDZ businesses to get started. The next Zone-Works workshop will take place at the Anaheim Sheraton, in Anaheim California on October 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

4. Department of Conservation recycling program grants:

There are approximately \$8 million available to individuals, government entities, businesses, and non-profit organizations for recycling programs targeting multifamily projects. The deadline to apply is October 24, 2008.

5. Waste reduction award programs winners:

This year, the Waste Board introduced the Cal-Recycle Sustainable Business Award, which honors businesses taking extraordinary measures to reduce waste. The 2008 Cal-Recycle Sustainable Business Award went to Bentley Prince Street, a carpet manufacturer located in the City of Industry in Los Angeles County. Bentley Prince Street uses a system called eco-metrics to measure the progress towards eliminating waste to landfills from their products and manufacturing process. The award ceremony will take place on November 20, 2008.

In addition, Mr. Uselton conducted a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on SB 1016, Solid Waste Disposal Measurement Act (SB 1016). Mr. Uselton indicated that the new law changed the current measurement system by placing the emphasis on the actual disposal rate rather than the diversion estimates. However, the focus of Board review will be on the program adequacy while disposal targets will be a reviewing factor. Mr. Uselton stated that one of the benefits of the new law is that it still maintained the 50 percent requirement that the jurisdictions have worked to achieve.

Mr. Uselton stated that jurisdictions will continue annual reporting process through Electronic Annual Report. He stated that the new law changed reviewing cycles to four years for jurisdictions that achieved above the 50 percent requirement by 2006 and two years review cycle for jurisdictions that did not meet the 50 percent requirement but had shown good faith efforts by the same year. Mr. Uselton stated that the Disposal Reporting System will remain the system for gathering disposal data. He noted that the disposal corrections are still allowed, as is transformation credit. The biomass credit is no longer available.

Mr. Uselton indicated that the Waste Board will have resources available to assist jurisdictions with the new regulations, including regional workshops, webcasts, individual meetings, and informational webpages on SB 1016.

**XII. PRESENTATION BY TRANSLOAD AMERICA INC. REGARDING WASTE BY RAIL TO UTAH**

Mr. Scott Evans, Vice President of Environmental Compliance and Development, TransLoad America Inc. (TLA) made a PowerPoint presentation ([see attachment](#)) covering TLA's proprietary baling technology, waste-by-rail project, alternative

technologies projects, and new out of County landfill (Solitude Landfill) in the city of Green River in Utah.

Mr. Evans reported that TLA uses patented, proprietary baling technology that originated in Europe in the early 1990s, and is similar in technique to hay baling systems, which produce compact cylindrical bales. The waste goes through a shredding process, after which it is spun around to distribute leachate evenly into 70" x 56" bales. These bales weigh approximately 3 tons and are shrink-wrapped. He noted that the leachate distribution step is a key part of the process because it prevents odors and vectors, thereby allowing bales to be stored until ready to be used.

Mr. Evans indicated that seven transfer stations in the east coast have already contracted with TLA to bale waste and transport by rail to the landfill that TLA currently owns in Ohio. He stated that TLA has partnered with Jefferson Energy to construct a waste-to-energy plant capable of processing 3,000 tons per day of waste, which is capable of generating 63 mega-watts. The plant is also expected to create around 250 new jobs. He noted one of the advantages of partnering with Jefferson Energy is that the company is open to using various kinds of technologies that suit the needs of the community where they are located.

Mr. Evans noted that TLA acquired the Solitude Landfill as part of the proprietary baling technology purchase. This landfill has 22 million cubic yards of airspace, is located in a 320 acres area, and about half a mile from the Union Pacific rail line. The landfill is fully permitted but not yet developed. A waste-to-energy facility is planned to be co-located at the landfill. Mr. Evans stated that TLA is seeking to partner and/or work with Los Angeles County area jurisdictions to develop local MRF/TS using TLA's baling technology to ship waste by rail to their Solitude Landfill in Utah.

### **XIII. PRESENTATION ON THE COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

No action. Item postponed until the next meeting.

### **XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE—TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2008, at 1 p.m.

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

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.