

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

Minutes of December 18, 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
Mary Ann Lutz, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Gail Farber, represented by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, represented by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Dept. of Public Health
Stephen Maguin, represented by Charles Boehmke, 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
Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Ron Saldana, Private Sector 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:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Tom Bruen, Allied/BFI
David Coscia, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rafael Garcia, Allied/Republic
Dave Hauser, Allied/BFI
Wayde Hunter, North Valley Coalition
Armine Kesablyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Sevak Khatchadorian, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Michael Moore, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita
Lindsay Sagorski, 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 1:10 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 20, 2008

A motion was made to approve the corrected minutes of November 20, 2008. The motion passed unanimously with Ms. Mary Ann Lutz abstaining.

III. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Subcommittee met earlier in the day to consider the Finding of Conformance (FOC) ([see attachment](#)) for the combined Sunshine Canyon Landfill City/County Project. After discussion, the Subcommittee moved to approve staff's recommendation to approve the FOC and adopt staff's recommendations with amendments for the City/County Project and recommend that the Task Force approve it as well.

Mr. Mike Mohajer noted that the Los Angeles City Council adopted a resolution on November 25, 2008, authorizing the development of Phase II of the City Landfill contingent upon the effective date of two ordinances establishing the Alternative to Landfilling Fee (ATL) and the City Local Enforcement Agency. On December 9, 2008, the City Council unanimously approved the said ordinances.

A motion was made to approve the FOC for the combined Sunshine Canyon Landfill City/County Project with staff recommendations as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR THE SUNSHINE CANYON COMBINED CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

See item III above.

V. UPDATE ON AB 2296, LANDFILL FINANCIAL ASSURANCE

Mr. Mohajer reported that he participated in a teleconference with Waste Board staff to further discuss the creation of a "pooled fund," which would cover the cost of closure, post-closure and corrective actions should a landfill operator be unable to meet their financial responsibilities.

Mr. Mohajer reported that he inquired if the “pooled fund” would be used to indemnify local jurisdictions in the same manner proposed for private landfill operators. However, Waste Board staff provided no immediate answer. He stated that Waste Board staff resolved to discuss the issue of indemnifying local jurisdictions for the cost of closure, post-closure and corrective actions at its next meeting on January 12, 2009.

VI. UPDATE ON CIWMB ORGANIC POLICY ROAD MAP

Ms. Linda Lee provided an update on the Waste Board’s organics policy road map. Ms. Lee indicated that phase II of the organics policy road map expands on the phase I discussions, which was presented to the Task Force at its June 2008 meeting. It contains six core issues: alternative daily cover (ADC) policy; economic incentives and disincentives; siting and capacity development; regulatory and permitting constraints; research, product standards, and technology evaluation; and education and procurement. She stated that phase II puts emphasis on finding ways to phase out use of greenwaste as ADC and finding markets for greenwaste material.

Ms. Lee reported that in August 2008, the Task Force sent two letters to the Waste Board regarding the organics policy road map. The letters addressed the siting of organics diversion facilities and phasing out green material as ADC policy. She reported that the Task Force has not yet received a response from the Waste Board regarding the concerns stated in the letters.

Ms. Lee noted that a third letter reiterating the Task Force’s concerns was sent to the Waste Board in December 2008. Specifically, the Task Force asked the Waste Board to clearly define “organics,” as a definition is absent in the Waste Board’s strategic directives and policy road maps; consider local jurisdictions’ recommendations regarding conversion technology in the policy road map discussions; and work closely with local jurisdictions on formulating policies to reduce use of greenwaste as ADC.

Ms. Lee stated that the Waste Board has yet to address these issues in the organic policy road map phase II discussions.

VII. PRESENTATION ON THE COUNTYWIDE SITING ELEMENT ANNUAL REPORT

Ms. Lee provided a presentation on the 2006 Countywide Siting Element Annual Report (CSE) ([see attachment](#)). She stated that the CSE establishes goals, policies, and guidelines for the County to properly address disposal need and capacity for the next 15 years. The CSE goals and policies include support for in-County disposal capacity, use of out-of-County disposal capacity, support for in-County infrastructure to

export solid waste by transfer or rail loading, and promoting alternatives to landfilling and incineration.

Ms. Lee stated that the CSE is divided in two sections: The Countywide Summary Plan Assessment, which focuses on revisions to the Summary Plan and regional issues; and the Countywide Siting Element Assessment, which discusses changes in permitted capacity, strategies for maintaining adequate disposal capacity, and waste plan conformance. Countywide disposal capacity includes 29 permitted large volume materials recovery facilities (MRF), 8 major landfills, and 2 waste-to-energy facilities. Countywide remaining disposal capacity in 2006 was 80 million tons, while disposal totaled 12.1 million tons.

Ms. Lee indicated that waste generation projections in the CSE used State-developed methodology and accounted for demographic and economic changes. Five scenarios and 2 alternatives were considered when analyzing countywide disposal capacity for the next 15 years.

Ms. Lee indicated that the best case scenario for Countywide waste management includes maximizing waste reduction efforts, the full use of in-County and out-of-County disposal capacity, development of infrastructure to facilitate exportation of waste, and development of alternatives to landfilling such as conversion technology.

VIII. PRESENTATION ON DISASTER GENERATED DEBRIS REMOVAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mr. Hossein Torabzadeh provided a presentation on the County of Los Angeles' Mass Debris Removal (MDR) Plan ([see attachment](#)) for the unincorporated areas. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) developed the MDR plan in 1996, and updated it in 2004 and 2008.

Mr. Torabzadeh indicated that when a local, state or federal disaster is declared, DPW deploys teams to disaster areas to survey the extent of debris, assess the extent of damages, and plan the best way to deal with debris removal. DPW also maintains a database of general contractors, hazardous waste contractors, recyclers and landfills that would play an important role in the debris removal. The MDR plan includes a communications component to inform County residents about collections services and debris handling. Other components of the plan focus on securing funding as well as keeping track of the operation data.

Mr. Torabzadeh stated that, for the purpose of the MDR plan, the County is divided in three areas: north, east, and southwest. The DPW maintains area maps with lists of

County facility locations that could be utilized as headquarters, locations of landfills and recycling facilities, and land areas of more than 2 acres that could be used as a debris storage area.

Mr. Torabzadeh stated that the Waste Board also has established a statewide task force to deal with debris management in case of disaster. Members of this task force include the City of Los Angeles, the County of Los Angeles, Caltrans, CalEPA, the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Water Board, the Army Corps of Engineers, the State Office of Emergency Services, and several local cities. He stated that the goal of this task force is to have a standard and comprehensive MDR plan for the state to use as a model. The debris management task force's next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2009.

A discussion ensued and Task Force members expressed interest in working with the County Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) in preparation of an informative Countywide Disaster Debris Management Plan. While the Task Force was in support of assisting the LEA, any action was delayed until the January meeting when a representative of the LEA could elaborate on the plan.

IX. CONSIDERATION OF SB 26

Ms. Armine Kesablyan provided an update on Senate Bill 26 (SB 26) ([see attachment](#)). She stated that SB 26 is related to the home-generated pharmaceutical and sharps waste programs discussed at the previous Task Force meeting. The Bill was introduced by Senator Joe Simitian on December 1, 2008.

SB 26 would authorize the Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules and regulations necessary to administer laws governing the operation of pharmacies and dispensing of drugs and devices to the public. It would authorize a pharmacy to accept the return of home-generated pharmaceutical waste and home-generated sharps waste. The bill would also exclude home-generated pharmaceutical waste from the definition of medical waste, and allow for grants provided by the Integrated Waste Management Fund to be used by local governments for programs to properly dispose of home-generated pharmaceutical waste.

Ms. Kesablyan indicated that supporting the Bill would contribute to promoting extended producer responsibility, allow for additional outlets for residents to conveniently and properly manage pharmaceutical and sharps waste, and provide jurisdictions with the opportunity to apply for State grants to implement necessary programs. A motion was made to send a letter to Senator Simitian in support of SB 26 as introduced on December 1, 2008. The motion passed unanimously.

X. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Virginia Jauregui provided updates on the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

1. AB 68—introduced by Brownley

This Bill would, starting July 10, 2010, prohibit a large supermarket, pharmacy, or convenience food store with over 10,000 Sq. Ft. from providing a single-use carry out bag to a customer unless the store charges a fee of not less than \$0.25 per bag at the point of sale. Staff will monitor the Bill and provide the Task Force with recommendations at the next meeting.

2. SB 4—introduced by Oropeza

This Bill would expand the prohibition on smoking to state coastal beaches or units of the state park system, punishable by up to a \$250 fine.

3. SB 25—introduced by Padilla

This Bill would require the Waste Board, by an unspecified date, to develop a strategic and comprehensive plan to achieve a 60 percent and 75 percent diversion rate from landfill disposal or transformation. A motion was made to send a letter to Senator Alex Padilla indicating that the Task Force would like to discuss his proposal with him or his staff and that Mr. Mohajer would be following up with the Senator's office. The motion passed unanimously.

4. SB 31—introduced by Pavley

This Bill would allow funds from the Air Pollution Control Fund to be expended upon technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including research and development, demonstration, and deployment. Staff will monitor the Bill and provide the Task Force with recommendations at the next meeting.

Ms. Jauregui also provided a list of important dates on the 2009-2010 legislative session:

- February 27, 2009, is the last day for a Bill to be introduced

- June 5, 2009, is the last day for a Bill to be passed out of the house of origin
- June 15, 2009, is the last day to pass a State budget
- September 4, 2009, is the last day to amend a Bill on the floor
- September 11, 2009, is the last day for each house to pass a Bill
- October 11, 2009, is the last day for the Governor to sign or veto a Bill passed by the Legislature

XI. REPORT FROM THE CALIFORNIA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD

No action. Item postponed until the next meeting.

XII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2009, at 1 p.m.

XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Mohajer reported that on November 26, 2008, a court decision was reached in the lawsuit brought against the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Water Board) by several cities in Los Angeles County. The lawsuit was in response to stormwater permits the Regional Water Board had issued. Task Force members directed staff to include an item on next month's agenda and invite a representative from the Department of Public Works, Watershed Management Division to provide an overview on the impact the court decision will have on stormwater permits.

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.