

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

Minutes of February 18, 2010

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
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)
Eugene Sun, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Gail Farber, represented by Paul Alva, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Cindy Chen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Stephen Maguin, rep. by Charles Boehmke, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Gerry Miller, represented by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Greig Smith, represented by Phyllis Winger, City of Los Angeles
Enrique Zaldivar, represented by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Steve Tye, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chuk Agu, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
John Bodenchak, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Oliver Cramer, City of Santa Clarita
Latoya Cyrus, CAA/Hidden Hills PVE
Hillary Gordon, Sierra Club
Ann Marie Hayashi, City of Alhambra
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Natalie Jimenez, 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
Ben Lucha, City of Palmdale
Tobie Mitchell, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Rod Mullineaux, Smurfit
Lukasz Przbylo, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Coby Skye, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Curtis Thomsen, BioContractors, Inc.
Randal Scot Thomson, California State University Northridge
Gerry Villalobos, Sunshine Canyon Landfill County LEA

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 21, 2010

A motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2010, was made. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Sam Perdomo was absent at the time the vote was taken.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that the Subcommittee met earlier in the day and reviewed articles from the City of Calabasas on environmental programs being implemented in the city's schools; the City of Santa Monica on its Christmas tree recycling program; and the County of Los Angeles on County agencies collaborating to enhance the nuisance abatement team program.

He stated that the subcommittee considered additional articles for the next edition of *Inside Solid Waste* including, the station fire and the work done managing the debris; the presentation by the University of California Riverside to the Task Force on the evaluation of conversion technology and the City/County efforts on the subject; the County efforts on developing an EIR ordinance to ban the use of carryout plastic bags; the pharmaceutical and sharps management issue that the Task Force considered in January; the County's efforts to amend the Countywide Siting Element; and the newly created department, CalRecycle.

Mr. Mohajer reported that the Southern California Waste Management Forum will have its spring conference on March 11, and the keynote speaker will be Ms. Margo Reid Brown, acting director of CalRecycle. He stated that Subcommittee member Cynthia Vant Hul and himself will be attending the conference and will write an article on Ms. Brown's remarks at the conference.

IV. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the Subcommittee heard an update on the preliminary draft Countywide Siting Element, and discussed finalizing the document. She stated that the Subcommittee will be providing their final comments to staff by April 1. The Subcommittee directed staff to establish a schedule for publishing and approval of the drafts in anticipation of public review. Ms. Landis also stated that the Subcommittee provided staff with comments on the draft Five-Year Review Report of the Countywide Integrated Waste

Management Plan and hopefully a final draft is ready for review at the April Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Mohajer noted that these countywide integrated waste management planning documents involve a lengthy and costly process, requiring approval of a double-majority of the cities in the County containing the majority of the cities' population and adoption by the County Board of Supervisors prior to submitting to CalRecycle. The past documents required both numerous community meetings and individual meetings with involved cities.

Ms. Landis indicated that the draft Five-Year Review Report will need to be presented to the Task Force prior to submittal to CalRecycle.

V. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Tobie Mitchell reported that the Subcommittee heard a presentation from Jeff Duhamel of Waste Systems Technology on Anaerobic Digestion. Ms. Mitchell also reported that the County expects to present Phase III and Phase IV contracts for the conversion technology demonstration project to the Board of Supervisors for approval in March. The Subcommittee also discussed the Air Resources Board (ARB) draft concept paper on low carbon fuel standards, which is a guidance document on standards for all transportation fuels in California. The standards require fuel providers to reduce the fuel's carbon intensity, which refers to the greenhouse gas emissions in the life cycle of the fuel, by 1 percent each year, until 2020.

Ms. Mitchell stated that staff reviewed the guidance document and found that it doesn't fully acknowledge the potential of organic waste, in particular municipal solid waste (MSW), as a renewable fuel. She stated that the Subcommittee passed a motion requesting that the Task Force send a letter to the ARB requesting that the guidelines be expanded to include more forms of MSW as potential feedstock that would be eligible under the low carbon fuel standards. A motion was made to send a letter to the ARB expressing the concerns mentioned by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. PRESENTATION ON ANAEROBIC DIGESTION, WASTE SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Jeff Duhamel of Waste Systems Technology provided a presentation ([see attachment](#)) on an anaerobic digestion project to process organic waste at the Grand Central Recycling and Transfer Station (GCR) in the City of Industry. He stated that a number of waste characterization studies in the City of Industry have identified about 35,000 tons per year of pre-consumer food waste

generated by a number of food manufacturers, and studies from the State of California have found that 52 percent of waste in the landfill system is organic waste.

Mr. Duhamel stated that proposed solutions to disposal, such as long haul of waste, raise concerns related to traffic congestion, pollution and air quality, massive fossil fuel consumption, rail capacity, and lack of diversion. Conversion technologies provide an alternative to help reduce the use of landfills. He stated that waste conversion technologies can proceed among three pathways: thermochemical, such as gasification and pyrolysis, which is suitable for lower moisture feedstock; biochemical, such as composting and anaerobic digestion, which is suitable for high moisture feedstock; and physiochemical, which is associated with the transformation of oils, fats, greases, and other suitable feedstock into liquid fuels and biodiesel.

Mr. Duhamel stated that GCR plans to use an Anaerobic Phased Solid Digester System developed by UC Davis and Onsite Power Systems. Feedstock for the system will come from greenwaste and food waste generated within the community that the hauling operator currently serves. He stated that at 250 tons a day, the system is expected to generate 5000 therms of natural gas with a retention time for greenwaste and food waste of approximately 12 days, yielding an 85 percent reduction in mass. The byproducts of this process include heat, methane gas, water, and biosolids.

Mr. Duhamel stated that inexpensive landfill rates have been an impediment to the economic viability of alternative disposal technologies. However, that has changed as landfill rates have increased 200 to 300 percent in the last few years. He stated that technologies such as anaerobic digestion are now financially viable and even competitive to composting and landfilling. A discussion followed.

VII. UPDATE ON REVEGETATION EFFORTS AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL

No action. Item postponed until the next meeting.

VIII. STATUS OF FINAL CLOSURE OF OLD SUNSHINE CANYON CITY LANDFILL

Mr. Gerry Villalobos provided Task Force members with correspondence ([see attachment](#)) from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) and the Sunshine Canyon Landfill-Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) regarding the status of the final closure for the old Sunshine Canyon City Landfill Unit 1 (Unit 1).

Mr. Villalobos stated that the correspondence from the Water Board dated April 18, 2008, is a conditional approval for final cover construction at Unit 1, which closed in October 2003, with an alternative cover system consisting of a six-foot monolithic soil cover. The Water Board indicated in the letter that they reviewed three annual reports which analyzed the performance of this alternative cover as well as the March 2004 construction quality assurance report. Their determination was that the alternative cover for Unit 1 met State regulations. On August 19, 2008, the Water Board issued a second letter to the operator approving the final cover construction based on the construction quality assurance report, the operator's July 2008 revegetation plan, as well as Water Board's staff inspection of the site.

Mr. Villalobos stated that SCL-LEA issued a letter to BFI on August 28, 2008, approving the revegetation plan and requiring the revegetation plan to be incorporated into the closure/postclosure maintenance plan for Unit 1. Having revised the closure/postclosure maintenance plan and completed all closure construction requirements by the operator, SCL-LEA certified the closure of Unit 1 on January 9, 2009.

Mr. Villalobos noted that he had been in contact with City of Los Angeles staff in charge of monitoring the revegetation plan. City staff indicated that although Unit 1 had been difficult to revegetate, the operator was in compliance with the revegetation plan approved as part of the closure/postclosure plan. Discussion followed.

IX. UPDATE ON AB 2296 AND AB 274, LANDFILL POSTCLOSURE MAINTENANCE, CORRECTIVE ACTION AND POOLED FUND

Ms. Linda Lee provided an update on CalRecycle's efforts to implement revised regulations regarding postclosure financial assurance mechanisms and an adopted legislation regarding a pooled fund for landfill operations.

Ms. Lee stated that the AB 2296 regulations for long-term postclosure maintenance and corrective action cost estimates and financial assurance demonstrations for landfills were adopted by the Waste Board on December 15, 2009 and expected to become effective before July 2010.

Ms. Lee stated that CalRecycle conducted a workshop on January 28 to provide updates on the pooled fund status to stakeholders and receive feedback. During the workshop, CalRecycle announced the formation of two technical working groups to assist with the implementation of the AB 2296 regulations: the Best Management Practices for Corrective Action Plan Working Group, and the Proactive Monitoring Program Working Group. She stated that staff had

requested to be enlisted in the working groups and would be reviewing the documents. The first meeting for the working groups will be on March 16.

Ms. Lee stated that during the workshop, stakeholders expressed hesitation in joining the pooled fund as this action is irrevocable, as well as concerns regarding the process of fund distribution, and questions about whether CalRecycle will place a cap on participants' contributions to the pooled fund. She stated that CalRecycle planned to have a follow-up workshop sometime after March to address these concerns.

Ms. Lee stated that CalRecycle's deadline to receive letters of participation in the pooled fund is July 1. Prior to reaching the deadline, CalRecycle will be working to formulate detailed mechanisms and provide assurance to operators. She stated that after the deadline, CalRecycle will determine whether they have 50 percent participation based on the total tonnage disposed of in California landfills. If the 50-percent threshold is not met, the pooled fund cannot be established. Ms. Lee also noted that if the proposed legislation AB 1004 is adopted, all the effective dates in AB 274 would be postponed for six months.

X. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Sevak Khatchadorian provided updates on the following Legislative Bills ([see attachment](#)):

1. SB 1029—introduced by Yee

Existing law, which sunsets on December 31, 2010, authorizes a county or city to authorize a licensed pharmacist to sell or furnish 10 or fewer hypodermic needles or syringes to a person for human use without a prescription if the pharmacy is registered with a local health department as part of the Disease Prevention Demonstration Project.

This bill would amend existing law to eliminate the sunset clause as well as restrictions imposed on the amount of sharps distributed to an individual from 10 to 30. This bill will also require pharmacies that furnish nonprescription hypodermic needles and syringes to provide consumers with one of three options: establish an onsite safe hypodermic needle and syringe collection and disposal program; make available sharp disposal containers authorized by the U.S. postal service and provide tracking forms to verify their destruction at a certified disposal facility; or make available a personal metal sharps disposal container that meets applicable state and federal standards for disposal of medical sharps waste.

A discussion followed and the Task Force instructed staff to watch the bill for any developments.

2. SB 1052—introduced by Oropeza

Existing law requires each state agency, as defined, to develop and adopt, in consultation with the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, an integrated waste management plan, to provide for the diversion at least 50 percent of the solid waste generated by the state agency from landfill disposal or transformation as well as to adopt regulations that identify electronic devices that are presumed to be, when discarded, a hazardous waste subject to the hazardous waste control laws.

This bill would require the Department of Toxic Substances Control, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery, and the Department of General Services to jointly collaborate to identify the methods that state agencies can adopt to properly handle and dispose of electronic waste, and would require each state agency to adopt an electronic waste management plan. The bill would require the plan to be submitted to the Department of Toxic Substances Control, by January 1, 2012, for review and approval, and would require each state agency to submit an annual report to the Department of Toxic Substances Control regarding the implementation of the plan.

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

3. AB 118—introduced by Logue

Mr. Khatchadorian stated that this bill, which if passed would have suspended AB 32 requirements until California's unemployment rate reaches 5.5 percent or less for four or more consecutive quarters, died in the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. The bill's author is now pursuing the same policy through a ballot measure for the November election.

4. AB 1998 and SB 1100—introduced by Brownley and Corbett, respectively

Mr. Khatchadorian noted that AB 1998, which deals with single-use carryout bags, and SB 1100, which establishes a product stewardship plan for household batteries, were introduced earlier in the day and staff did not have ample time to review the bills. He stated that staff will provide an update at the next meeting.

XI. PRESENTATION ON EPA'S REPORT: *BEYOND RECYCLING - COMPOSTING FOOD SCRAPS AND SOILED PAPER*

Mr. Coby Skye stated that staff reviewed the report, which was prepared by Center for a Competitive Waste Industry/Gary Liss & Associates with funding from EPA Region 9, and had some concerns. Staff found that the report presents a very pro-composting perspective and does not recognize that there are potential greenhouse gas emissions from composting; it talks about the need to divert organic wastes from landfills but ignores any mention of any other conversion technologies; it supports an increase in landfill disposal tipping fees; and promotes phasing out the use of green waste as alternative daily cover (ADC). He stated that the Task Force has been opposed to these policies as presented in the report, and thus staff recommends sending a letter of concern to the EPA and the authors of the report.

A motion was made to send a letter of concern and opposition over the issues mentioned above to the EPA and the authors of the report. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Sam Perdomo was absent at the time the vote was taken.

XII. REPORT FROM CALRECYCLE

No action. Item postponed until the next meeting.

XIII. UPDATE ON COURT DECISION REGARDING LAWSUIT BROUGHT AGAINST REGIONAL WATER BOARD

No action. Item postponed until the next meeting.

XIV. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2010, at 1 p.m.

XV. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment. The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.