

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

Minutes of August 19, 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, rep. by Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Stephen Maguin, rep. by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Gerry Miller, rep. by Charles Modica, City of Los Angeles
Greig Smith, rep. by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Gerry Villalobos, County of Los Angeles Department of
Public Health

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, South Coast Air Quality Management District
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Suk Chong, County of Los Department of Public Works
Latoya Cyrus, Charles Abbott Assoc,
Bruce Durbin, County of Los Angeles Department of Regional Planning
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Mike Kaspar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Armine Kesablyan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Toby Mitchell, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Gina Nila, City of Commerce
Mark Patti, City of Santa Clarita

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:11 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 15, 2010

A motion was made to approve the minutes of July 15, 2010, with minor revisions. The motion passed with one abstention from Chris Salomon.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that four articles were considered from the City of Torrance regarding utilizing goats for lot cleanup, City of Artesia regarding bulky item collection, the countywide smart gardening program and two new centers that will be developed, and City of Huntington Park regarding their recycling program for Senior Citizens. There will also be a legislative update, an article on CalRecycle's Jurisdictional Review Tool, an update from the Sanitation District on Mesquite Regional Landfill, and an update on the County's conversion technology projects.

Mr. Mohajer also mentioned that the ISW Newsletter was late getting out, and he requested staff to be timelier in getting the newsletter out.

IV. REPORT FROM THE ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE (ATAS)

Ms. Tobie Mitchell reported that Alternative Resources, Inc. (ARI), is working with Public Works in identifying financing sources for the three demonstration projects that are a part of Phase III. ARI has subcontractors in Washington D.C. and Sacramento who are actively pursuing funding from USDOE, USDA, and the Feinstein amendment to the ARRA. Regarding Phase IV, staff is working closely with ARI to meet with stakeholders throughout the County who have expressed interest in developing a conversion technology project. Stakeholders including the cities, solid waste facility owners and operators, and industrial real estate developers have submitted sites to the County for consideration.

Public Works will be submitting a preliminary siting assessment to the Board of Supervisors in October. This initial assessment is not intended to be comprehensive nor is it designed to rank the sites. This assessment is intended to establish a basis for future and more detailed evaluations. Ms. Mitchell also reported that the Department of Public Works will be hosting a Conversion Technology Informational Workshop on September 23 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and invited the members of the Task Force to participate. The agenda will feature of

a wide range of speakers representing industry and local government. The workshop will provide cities, technology providers and solid waste companies with information regarding the three County-approved conversion technology demonstration projects, and encourage attendees to participate in future projects within L.A. County. Registration is available online at www.socalconversion.org.

Lastly, Ms. Mitchell reported that a clean waste technology presentation was given by Walter McKinney from CR3 Autoclave Recycling System on an autoclave system that is designed to take waste in and separate it, sterilize recyclables and metals, and finally converting the remaining organic fraction into pulp to be used for other purposes.

V. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the subcommittee had a discussion about the meeting which Mr. Mohajer, as a representative of the Task Force, had with the County of Los Angeles Departments of Public Works, and Regional Planning regarding Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The subcommittee requested that reporting on the Landfill's compliance status with the County Conditional Use Permit be provided more regularly to ensure that all the responsible County agencies are carrying out their enforcement duties.

The subcommittee also discussed sending a letter to Sunshine Canyon Landfill – Local Enforcement Agency (SCL-LEA) requesting clarification on whether the CEQA documents prepared for the Landfill were considered in issuing the Landfill's Solid Waste Facility Permit and the roles and responsibilities of the SCL-LEA in enforcing the mitigation measures identified in the CEQA documents. Ms. Landis made a motion to send a letter to the SCL-LEA and CalRecycle. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mike Mohajer, and passed unanimously.

VI. UPDATE ON TASK FORCE MEETING WITH COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENTS OF REGIONAL PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS REGARDING SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa reported that Messrs. Mike Mohajer and Pat Proano and staff met with the Director of Regional Planning to address some of the concerns of the Task Force. Regional Planning provided a status update on hiring an independent monitor to monitor the County Conditional Use Permit (CUP) conditions at the Landfill. The Request for Proposal process is anticipated to be completed in October. The meeting continued with a discussion on Landfill's odor issue. The County agreed that the County would look into the odor issues. Based on the CUP, the County has authority to require corrective measures to mitigate odor.

The County agreed to take follow-up actions such as working with Republic Services in revising the revegetation plan to improve vegetation at the Landfill and working with AQMD for ways to mitigate the odor problem, such as enforcing Mitigation Measure No. 33 identified in the Landfill's Supplemental EIR ([see attachment](#)). County staff would conduct regular meetings to address other pending issues at the Landfill and request meetings of the Technical Advisory Committee as necessary to address immediate problems.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Rogelio Gamiño reported on following legislative bills ([see attachment](#)):

1. AB 222—introduced by Adams and Ma

At the July Task Force meeting, the Task Force voted to change its position on AB 222 from "Support" to "Oppose Unless Amended." As amended on 07-15-10, the bill would create new permitting barriers (CSE), establish inaccurate working definitions by equating CTs with incinerators, prohibit CTs from eligibility for Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) credits, prohibit CTs from eligibility for AB 939/SB 1016 disposal credits and from credits currently provided to gasification, further discourage the development of new technologies, perpetuate California's dependence on landfill disposal, indefinitely, and perpetuate California's dependence on foreign countries to manage materials recovered through recycling in California. Since landfill gas-to-energy and biomass combustion facilities receive these credits, the effect of these revisions would further discourage the development of conversion technologies in California. The requested amendments were to revert the current version of the bill (07-15-10) back to the 07-08-09 version of the bill.

2. AB 737—introduced by Chesbro

On June 7, 2010, the Task Force sent a letter stating their strong opposition to the 06-02-10 version of the bill. The letter stated that if enacted, AB 737 would significantly increase the burden on local governments and would eliminate current provisions in State law for the LTF to comment and review NDFE updates and impacts.

The 08-17-10 version of the bill continues to require all jurisdictions to implement a commercial recycling program and any owner or operator of a business that contracts for solid waste services and generates more than four cubic yards of material per week arrange for recycling services. This version also authorizes local agencies to charge a fee from a commercial waste generator to recover costs in complying with

the mandatory commercial requirements. In addition, it relieves CalRecycle from ensuring a 75% diversion rate is achieved by January 1, 2010, and would instead require CalRecycle, by March 1, 2013, to report to the Legislature on the State's current diversion rate and potential strategies to increase the diversion rate to 75%.

This bill is anticipated to be on the Senate Floor August 20 or 23.

3. AB 1004—introduced by Portantino

On July 22, 2010, the Task Force sent a letter stating their "Oppose Unless Amended" position to the 07-15-10 amended version of the bill. The letter stated that the proposed legislation fails to address how the State will be able to recover expended funds in the event a private landfill owner/operator files for bankruptcy. The letter requested that AB 1004 be amended to protect local governments and local rate payers from such situations by establishing a mechanism for the State to recover expended funds utilized from the Trust Fund.

4. AB 1343—introduced by Huffman

On August 20, 2009, the Task Force sent a letter stating their "Support" for the 07-13-09 amended version of the bill. The letter stated that the Task Force supports requiring manufacturers of architectural paint to develop and implement a paint recovery program that will reduce the generation, promote the reuse, and manage the end-of-life impacts of postconsumer latex and oil based paints.

5. AB 1998—introduced by Brownley

On April 1, 2010, the Task Force sent a letter stating their "Support" to the 02-17-10 version of AB 1998 because the bill would help reduce the environmental impacts of single-use bags on the environment as well as reduce the compulsory litter cleanup cost on local governments. The bill is currently held up due to a shift of support from key interest groups.

6. AB 2398—introduced by Perez

On April 29, 2010, the Task Force sent a letter stating their "Support" of the 04-14-10 version of AB 2398 because the bill would reduce the costs which local governments and taxpayers are burdened with for the proper disposal of carpets. The bill would require carpet manufacturer's to responsibly manage the end-of-life of their products.

7. SB 722—introduced by Simitian

On May 5, 2010, the TF sent a letter stating their position of “Oppose Unless Amended.” This bill would increase the amount of electricity generated per year from eligible renewable energy resources to 33% percent of the total electricity sold to retail customers in California per year by December 31, 2020. However, the previous version of the bill would have precluded future landfill gas to energy projects from qualifying for renewable energy credit. It also reinforced current inaccuracies in State law that discourages the development of conversion technologies in the State.

8. AB 1100—introduced by Corbett

On July 19, 2010, the Task Force sent a letter stating their “Support” position on the 06-15-10 amended version of the bill. The letter stated that the Task Force has been an adamant supporter of product stewardship as a mechanism for protecting the public’s health and safety and the environment at the source by addressing source reduction while in turn reducing costs for local governments to address the unintended environmental impacts of products.

9. H.R.5856 (Waste-to-Energy Technology Act 2010)—Introduced by Doggett

This bill would provide for an investment tax credit for waste-to-energy facilities. It defines ‘qualified waste-to-energy property’ as property comprising of a system which uses municipal solid waste or municipal sewage sludge as the feedstock for producing solid, liquid, or gas fuel.

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of support. It was seconded by Ms. Nicole Bernson. The motion passed unanimously.

10. S.3397 (Responsible Drug Act)—Introduced by Klobuchar

This bill would allow an entity who has lawfully obtained a controlled substance, such as prescribed medications, to deliver that substance to another person for the purpose of disposal, if that person is authorized to do so by the Attorney General

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a letter of support. It was seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. RECIRCULATED DEIR FOR THE SIMI VALLEY LANDFILL

Ms. Tobie Mitchell reported on the recirculated Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Simi Valley Landfill expansion that was released for public comment on July 27, 2010. The proposed project would extend the Conditional Use Permit boundary from 297 to 887 acres, extend the landfill closure to 2054, increase the daily maximum disposal rate from 3000 to 6000 tons per day, and reduce the facility's existing recycling capacity from 6250 to 3250 tons per day.

The DEIR was originally released for public comment in September 2009. At that time, the Task Force submitted a letter expressing concern that in the DEIR's evaluation of project alternatives, conversion technologies were inadequately analyzed and subsequently were eliminated during the initial screening process.

In accordance with CEQA, the DEIR was recirculated for public comment on July 27, 2010, due to the addition of significant new information. The recirculated DEIR now includes an analysis of greenhouse gas emission impacts, as required by Senate Bill 97 and an expanded landfill gas to liquefied natural gas processing facility. Earlier this year, the landfill owner/operator, Waste Management Inc, received an \$11 million grant from the California Energy Commission, which would allow the landfill to build an expanded liquefied natural gas processing facility. It is expected to produce 18,000 gallons of liquefied natural gas per day that will be used to power heavy-duty landfill equipment.

Public comments regarding the recirculated DEIR will be accepted until September 9, 2010. Because the recirculated DEIR does not expand on the conversion technology analysis in the original DEIR or attempt to correct inaccuracies pointed out by the Task Force in their December 22, 2009, letter, Staff's recommendation is to send a follow up letter to the Ventura County Planning Department reemphasizing the need to provide a complete analysis of the conversion technologies as an alternative to the project.

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion to send a followup letter to Ventura Planning Company. It was seconded by Ms. Betsey Landis. Ms. Margaret Clark suggested attaching the report to the letter. The motion passed with one abstention from Mr. Chris Salomon.

IX. OVERVIEW OF THE SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LEA'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Gerardo (Gerry) Villalobos of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (SCL/LEA) gave a presentation of the goals, objections, and roles of the SCL/LEA ([see attachment](#)).

There was a discussion about odor issues coming from Sunshine Canyon Landfill. In the interest of time, Ms. MaryAnn Lutz asked Gerry to bring back a specific presentation about the odor issues and the AQMD enforcement authority of the SCL/ LEA.

X. PRESENTATION ON PELLA DRX CONVERSION TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Mark Stechschulte, a representative from Sharps Compliance, Inc., gave a presentation on PELLA-DRX™, the end product of a waste conversion process (WCP) that renders the origin of the product indistinguishable and eliminates landfill use of medical waste by 100% by using Sharps Recovery products. (see attachment):

XI. CALIFORNIA'S MODEL DRUG COLLECTION PROGRAM WORKSHOP

No discussion. Item was tabled until the next Task Force Meeting.

XII. REPORT FROM CALRECYCLE

No report was given.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

There won't be a quorum on for the September 16 meeting, so Ms. Margaret Clark asked if the meeting could be held the same day as the Conversion Technology Workshop since quite a few committee members will be present. There was also discussion of canceling the meeting if there were no pressing issues. Staff will look into rescheduling or canceling September meeting.

XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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