

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

Minutes of November 17, 2011

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
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Mitchell Englander, rep. by Nicole Bernson, City of Los Angeles
Dr. Jonathan Fielding, rep. by Cindy Chen, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health
Gail Farber, rep. by Bahman Hajjaliakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Stephen Maguin, rep. by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach
David Kim, City of Los Angeles
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles
Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative
Eugene Sun, League of California Cities-Los Angeles Division
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steven Abrahams, IMI
Ray Andersen, CORE
Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Becky Bendikson, SCL-CAC
David Coscia, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Latoya Cyrus, Hidden Hills/PVE
Zach Granat, GHNNC
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC
Laina Long, Santa Monica College
Corey Mayne, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Betsey Meyer,
Derek Rojas, V.V.S.
Alisa Shermin, City of Torrance
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Wu Tan, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Chris VanVeldhuizen, IMI
Jocelyn Winn, Santa Monica College

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 1:07 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2011

A motion was made to approve the October 20, 2011. The motion passed with unanimously.

A1. SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Due to time sensitivity for Task Force action, a request was made to add an item regarding the Sunshine Canyon Landfill to the agenda. Ms. Betsey Landis explained that the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee was asked to have the Task Force send a letter to support the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) petition to amend the stipulated order for abatement for Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The urgency is due to SCAQMD hearings that are scheduled to be held before the next Task Force meeting. The Committee voted unanimously to add the item to the agenda. Ms. Mary Ann Lutz requested that information like this should be provided to the Task Force prior to the meeting so it can be added to the agenda and the Task Force could be properly prepared to discuss the item.

Ms. Landis made a motion to send a letter of support to SCAQMD regarding their District Rule 402 petition to amend the stipulated order for abatement for Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Mr. Mike Mohajer seconded the motion and a brief discussion ensued. Mr. Jay Chen explained the petition came as a result of numerous notices of violation for public nuisance at the landfill. An order for abatement was issued over two years ago, but the odor nuisance continued. AQMD reached out to other agencies for support in requesting the Hearing Board to amend the current order for abatement to include additional measures for odor control such as improvements to the existing gas collection system, installation of a new flare, implementation of additional odor management plan measures and efforts to prevent damage to the current gas wells as well as hiring an independent firm to observe and monitor the Landfill's plan. Mr. Chen also stated the public hearing dates are scheduled for November 19, 29, 30, and December 3, 2011.

Ms. Nicole Bernson stated that the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency (LEA) Board of Directors also discussed this item and voted to support SCAQMD's petition as well. She stated for the record that if the item had been properly agendized, Republic could have been present to speak on this issue as well. She then added that the LEA specifically voted to support the nature of the independent monitor and that Republic should finance it while maintaining the

monitor as an independent entity, which is a debated issue on budgetary control and expending money at the site.

Ms. Landis and Mr. Mohajer indicated that Republic was made aware of the item on the Facility Plan and Review Subcommittee agenda, but were unable to attend that meeting. Mr. Wayne Hunter provided letters of support from the Sunshine Canyon Landfill Community Advisory Committee and Sunshine Canyon Landfill Local Enforcement Agency that were distributed for Task Force review. After review of the letters, Mr. Mohajer amended the motion for support to be based on the October 26, 2011 version which does not prevent the Task Force from further commenting on the odor issue. The motion passed with abstentions from Chris Salomon and Ron Saldana.

III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE (PEIS)

Mr. Mohajer reported distribution of the Inside Solid Waste (ISW) newsletter was delayed because the subcommittee wanted to wait for the Governor's update of legislative bills. The committee was hopeful to finalize and distribute by November 21. He also stated there were no articles received for review but the following topics will be considered for the next ISW edition: AB 341, L.A. County ban on styrofoam, paint and carpet, Waste Board Regulations for Composting, CalRecycle's Organic Map update, New CalRecycle Director, Mesquite Landfill update, San Gabriel COG workshop, Irwindale MRF, Azusa MRF, Sunshine Canyon Landfill odor mitigation. These topics will be included pending receipt of articles from the cities and staff.

Apart from the subcommittee report, Mr. Mohajer mentioned Mr. Howard Levenson and Cara Morgan stated they would be willing to attend the December Task Force meeting to provide an update if a meeting will be held.

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

Ms. Tobie Mitchell reported that CR&R Inc., achieved another milestone by receiving certification of their mitigated negative declaration for an anaerobic digestion project from the Perris Planning Commission. She also reported that a presentation was given to the ATAS by Urbaser, a Spanish solid waste company. They are developers and project facility operators with anaerobic digestion, waste-to-energy, materials recovery, and gasification facilities in Europe and South America and are currently involved with the City of Los Angeles alternative technology program. They are interested in marketing their business in the Southern California region and just opened an office in Woodland hills

V. REPORT FROM THE FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Ms. Betsey Landis reported the subcommittee reviewed a Finding of Conformance (FOC) for the Antelope Valley Public Landfill Expansion and made a motion for the Task Force to approve the FOC based on recommended modifications from the subcommittee. Ms. Linda Lee gave a brief overview of the project stating the project is currently an existing landfill operating as two separate units. The project proposes to combine both units into a single landfill by adding the bridged, 11-acre of space between them. Waste Management has received conditional use approval from the City of Palmdale, and a City Resolution that certifies the environmental document, and CalRecycle has concurred with the solid waste facility permit. She stated that the granting of the FOC indicates the project is in conformance with the countywide siting element, and that it is utilizing the available airspace, and provides in-county disposal capacity. Ms. Lee briefly went over the suggested subcommittee modifications, and Ms. Mary Ann Lutz seconded the motion to approve the FOC. The motion passed with one abstention from Chris Salomon.

The subcommittee also had a brief discussion on Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF FINDING OF CONFORMANCE FOR THE ANTELOPE VALLEY PUBLIC LANDFILL EXPANSION

See Item V.

VII. CALRECYCLE/STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD WORKSHOP ON DRAFT REGULATORY REVISION TO TITLE 14 AND 27

Mr. Wu Tan reported letters to the Water Board, CalRecycle, and California EPA and EPA Pacific Southwest Region (Region 9) were sent as directed by the Task Force. He then gave an update on the Water Board permitting process and a summary of the stakeholder meeting held on November 16, 2011, which staff attended. He stated the next meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2011 in San Diego.

Mr. Mohajer stated he also attended the workshop and added that opposition to these regulations is important and not be restricted to CalRecycle's action. AB 939 wants 50 percent diversion through source reduction, recycling and composting. CalRecycle is proposing to require 50 percent reduction in organic waste going to landfills by 2020. AB 341 mandates 75 percent of solid waste generated be source reduced, recycled, and composted. These are the only sources targeted for reduction without looking at alternatives. State agencies are promoting composting to achieve the diversion goals, which could affect public health and safety if not done correctly. Currently composting facilities operate without waste discharge requirements. A general order is now being established

to control composting operations. He explained the issues with the current composting regulations being defined differently by state and other regulatory agencies and suggested they should work together to achieve uniformity in their definitions and terms and provide a table of definitions of composting. Mr. Mohajer also stated that conversion technology should be given fair treatment just like any other waste reduction alternatives.

VIII. COMPOSTING – UPDATE ON CALRECYCLE ORGANIC MATERIALS ROADMAP AND REGULATIONS

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated CalRecycle is ready to start the Rule Making process. Once started, they must complete them within 12 months. Food composting was brought up and broken up into several different categories for discussions. The food composting issues are critical related to storm water compliance and alternatives to waste management. It is a public health issue and the cities need to get involved with the process. He also stated that diversion issues are not limited to composting and the storm water general order but affects the entire waste management system and alternatives in handling waste that goes to the landfill. He asked staff to look at the issues from a broad perspective and come up with recommendations.

Ms. Betsey Landis commented that consideration should also be given to pesticides, herbicides, antibiotics and other treatments given to creatures we eat, which also go into composting and get into the waste water runoff. Fungal and bacterial growth will occur if plastic tarps are used. Because of this a lot of regulations and inspections will be required before it even gets to composting. Ron Saldana added that it is important to look at the big picture of composting. He stated as recycling grows and more products are added, determinations needs to be made on what to do with it. Food waste from a slaughter house should be differentiated from food waste on the street. Also as more alternative daily cover gets eliminated, more food waste is being added to compost piles so more rules and regulations will have to be added. There needs to be a balance as you go through the rulemaking process.

IX. SANTA MONICA COLLEGE RECYCLING AND WASTE MANAGEMENT CURRICULUM INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Ms. Laina Long, Santa Monica College California Works Alliance Project Manager, introduced their Recycling and Resource Management certificate program. The program offers a 12-unit certificate in Recycling and Zero-Waste and has an internship component. Interns are available to work from 8 to 40 hours a week. For more information on the program go to www.smc.edu/ceus or contact Laina Long at Long_Laina@smc.edu.

Mr. Mike Mohajer made a motion for staff to check with County Counsel about the possibility of hiring interns to work with them on Task Force related work. Ms. Nicole Bernson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

X. MANDATORY COMMERCIAL RECYCLING REGULATION RULEMAKING

Mr. Gabriel Arenas presented the differences between the previous version of the regulations and the revised version. He summarized the Task Force's suggested comments, and how they were incorporated in the revised regulations. The revised regulations are very similar to the pre-AB 341 regulations. This is expected to be the last opportunity to comment before adoption of the regulations by CalRecycle. The 45 day review period ends on December 12, and the public hearing will be December 13, 2011.

Mr. Mike Mohajer stated that AB 341 ultimately requires cities to be responsible for mandatory commercial recycling. CalRecycle defines business to include Federal and State government, school districts, State colleges and universities. One issue he pointed out is that buildings with varying business occupants may have varying disposal methods and it would be difficult for local governments to follow up with recycling. Comments to CalRecycle should state that they need to define how a local city can require the State government to implement recycling and that the regulations should be revised to not require local government to be responsible for all recycling efforts. CalRecycle also needs to state what their expectations are from the cities regarding commercial buildings.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to forward the suggested comments to CalRecycle prior to December 12, 2012. Ms. Betsey Landis seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Ms. Nicole Bernson suggested that the League of California Cities (League) representatives on the Task Force take this information back to the League and seek a bill sponsor to draft a cleanup bill.

XI. ASPHALT SHINGLE RECYCLING

Mr. Steve Abrahams introduced his company, Industrial Material Innovations. They are a new company, which recycles roofing material such as asphalt shingles. They have a processing plant the processes reduces the shingles down to very fine material, which is reused in asphalt. They work with large hot asphalt producers and detract about 40,000 tons of asphalt from landfills through recycling. It also replaces oil in the asphalt material. They are hoping to build another facility in the Los Angeles area.

XII. REPORT FROM CALRECYCLE

There was no report from CalRecycle.

XIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

The December meeting is canceled unless an urgent matter arises.

XIV. OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Wayde Hunter requested to be added to the subcommittee agenda distribution list to be informed when to submit items for the agenda. The Committee informed him that if he has items to discuss he could contact staff and request to add them to the agenda and submit any supporting documents prior to 72 hours before the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

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