

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

Minutes of February 16, 2012

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
900 South Fremont Avenue  
Alhambra, California

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Margaret Clark, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Betsey Landis, Environmental Organization Representative  
Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

Carl Clark, rep. by David Thornburg, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.  
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 Carlos Ruiz, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Grace Chan, rep. by Chris Salomon, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District  
Enrique Zaldivar, rep. by Karen Coca, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

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, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

OTHERS PRESENT:

Martins Aiyetiwa, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Becky Bendikson, SCL-CAC  
Anthony Bertrand, Republic Services, Inc.  
David Cieply, Republic Services, Inc.  
Latoya Cyrus, CAA  
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC  
Linda Lee, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Corey Mayne, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Coby Skye, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle  
Suk Chong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Derele Roja, Vivis

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 1:15 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2012**

A motion was made to approve the January 19, 2012, minutes with minor corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Betsey Landis asked for clarity on the AB 341 and 75% goal recorded in the minutes in reference to conformance findings and the Task Forces' duties for permitting. Mr. Mike Mohajer explained for that purpose the LEA would make that finding. Task Force only makes findings in reference to the landfill disposal, and in addition to the Task Force's findings, the LEA makes a finding when they issue a solid waste permit for land use. The LEA also makes findings for composting, transfer stations, MRFs, etc.

**III. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that there are 15 articles to review and comment which includes articles from Sanitation District, Palos Verdes, City of Calabasas and proposals from The Department of Public Works' Environmental Programs Division and Public Relations Group. Publishing of the articles will depend on available space, and any remaining articles will be published in the next issue. Mike reported none of the items on their agenda were discussed.

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

Mr. Suk Chong provided the update from the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee. Mr. Chong reported that the Subcommittee passed a motion requesting staff to prepare a specific work plan within two to three months that describes upcoming proposed public outreach activities that Cerrell Associates will be pursuing. Mr. Chong also noted that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a 12-month extension to Cerrell's current public outreach contract.

Mr. Chong also reported that the County consultants along with Public Works are in the process of preparing a grant application to the California Energy Commission. The County is requesting a matching fund grant to develop the Conversion Technology Center, a statewide virtual resource center for the public and private sectors. The Center would provide additional funding to provide

technical assistance to many of the projects that are currently underway in the County. Grant applications are due to the Commission on February 23, 2012.

Progress is being made on an options analysis for the City of Avalon. The City is interested in siting a small-scale conversion technology unit at their landfill. Public Works is also working with other County departments to determine the feasibility of siting an anaerobic digestion project at the Calabasas Landfill.

Public Works is working with CalRecycle and other jurisdictions to host MRF Tours. The purpose of these tours is to educate decision makers and elected officials on the type of materials that remain after recycling. Many jurisdictions are interested in using these post-MRF residuals for a beneficial purpose rather than landfill disposal.

Public Works is gearing up for several presentation opportunities. Today, Coby Skye spoke at the Renewable Energy Conference in Long Beach, and Tobie Mitchell has been invited to present on the County's behalf at the West Coast BioCycle Conference in April.

## **V. FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ms. Betsey Landis reported that the subcommittee heard a presentation on the proposed Landfill Gas Treatment and Landfill Gas Energy System at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Ms. Landis reported there was an update on the Fire Departments' training at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill, and the issue was that the County Fire Department did not know super scooper contractor was conducting trainings at the landfill. She reported that the City and County Fire Departments committed to communicating with the landfill operator and the Granada Hills community regarding future trainings. The subcommittee further discussed vegetation progress at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill.

The subcommittee heard an update on CalRecycle's informal workshop regarding the draft regulatory revisions to Title 14 and 27 regarding composting regulations. The subcommittee passed a motion to send comments on the draft revisions, including proposed definitions of food, mulch, beneficial use, and contaminants.

Ms. Landis made a motion for the Task Force to send the letter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ron Saldana and passed unanimously.

## **VI. UPDATE ON FIRE DEPARTMENT TRAINING AT THE SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL**

Captain Paul Egizi of the City of Los Angeles Fire Department and Captain Mike Clemens of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department explained the various training exercises conducted by their respective Departments at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Captain Egizi confirmed the use of the Sunshine Canyon Landfill for land-based training and filling the helicopter with water for water drops. He indicated the Department's commitment to coordinating with the landfill operator prior to conducting the drills and communicating with the Granada Hills community.

Captain Clemens indicated their contracted super scoopers utilize the landfill for training, and will take measures to ensure they have a good working relationship with the landfill as well as take care not to damage the landscape.

Mr. Mohajer clarified that the Fire Departments were not using fire retardant during their training drills and expressed his appreciation to both Captains for attending the meeting.

## **VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Coby Skye gave an update on the attached legislative table. He stated that 13 bills were removed in the last 30 days from the legislative table while several new bills were added. Many of them relate to incentives for clean manufacturing and job creation so hopefully there will be opportunities for potential funding or incentives for conversions technology. Staff did not have any recommendations for action at this point but will be closely monitoring the bills.

Mr. Skye talked about SB 568. The County is actively supporting the passage of SB 568. This bill will implement a prohibition of polystyrene food containers. The County implemented a prohibition of polystyrene at County operations and recently completed a study about extending the prohibition to facilities in all County unincorporated areas. Staff findings were that if the prohibition was extended statewide it would be much more effective, and fair to businesses in the unincorporated area. The City of Los Angeles supports the bill as well.

Mr. Skye is requesting that each member urge their respective agencies to send letters of support. Mr. Skye mentioned there is a short window of opportunity for the bill to pass and be considered this year. It will be difficult to find a new author next year if the bill were to be brought back. The bill passed the senate and it is now in the assembly. Therefore, Mr. Skye recommended the Task Force

reiterate their support for the bill, and ask cities in the County to send in letters of support as well. Ms. Betsey Landis made a motion to send a letter of support for SB 568. The motion was seconded by Karen Coca and passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to support the proposal of AB 1442, amended on February 26. Mr. Carlos Ruiz seconded the motion. Ms. Karen Coca asked for a clarification regarding the provisions of the bill. Mr. Coby Skye explained that this bill would make it easier for hospitals and other entities that generate medical waste to transport that material directly, rather than via certified medical waste haulers. Ms. Cindy Chen is concerned that the bill does not specify who will be the responsible party for ensuring the pharmaceuticals are handled properly and who will regulate.

Mr. Mohajer noted that this bill lays the groundwork for product stewardship for pharmaceuticals, and as a result the industry is opposing the bill. After a lengthy discussion, the motion failed and staff was directed to develop a fact sheet regarding the bill and bring it back for further discussion at the next Task Force meeting.

Mr. Mohajer asked to have SB 964 and SB 965 presented at the next Task Force meeting.

## **VIII. GREEN STATION PRESENTATION**

Mr. Dan Mabe gave the attached presentation called The Monster Footprint, where he illustrated facts about the air and noise pollution impacts from current lawn equipment and the amount of gasoline and oil they consume in addition to all the solid waste that ends up in the landfill. Mr. Mabe also had a fuel matrix which showed how many gallons of gasoline were used in a year by several types of equipment. He followed a total of eight gardeners around which helped him with his findings. One of his findings related to how much solid waste was generated by the products used to maintain their equipment. Mr. Mabe also demonstrated an electrical leaf blower and showed how much more effective an electrical lawn equipment was in protecting the environment, in terms of eliminating hazardous products that end up disposed, sometimes improperly, in addition to the noise and air pollution avoided.

Ms. Margaret Clark asked if their company has quantified how much electricity would be used if everyone went with the electric equipment instead of gas. Mr. Mabe response was that they have done studies based on electrical cars showing that there is more than sufficient underutilized electricity capacity at night to charge millions of vehicles each year based on the existing electrical

system. Since the batteries used by the lawn equipment require 90 percent less energy than an electric car they have not quantified the differences but expect the impact to be minimal. If you were to use "opportunity charging" for this particular battery, for example at someone's home while tending someone's lawn, it will cost about 12-15 cents a charge that will last about 25 minutes for the blower. For the head trimmer and line trimmer the charge will last a little over an hour. However the standard process would be to charge all the batteries overnight, and have enough batteries banked for the day, depending on the square footage they would have on the property.

Ms. Mary Ann Lutz asked about the cost for electrical apparatus verses gas operated equipment. Mr. Mabe responded by saying it's about 25-30 percent more upfront, but they are also starting to demonstrate the higher cost of maintaining gas pieces of equipment through their lifetime. The electrical blower will end up costing less through its lifetime versus a gas piece of equipment. Ms. Lutz asked if the lifespans are comparable or are they longer. Mr. Mabe answered by saying the electrical equipment last longer; it's just a matter of replacing the battery. Currently, they are trying to design a better battery.

**IX. SUNSHINE GAS PRODUCERS, GAS TREATMENT AND LANDFILL GAS TO ENERGY SYSTEM AT THE SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL**

Mr. Lou Wilkinson, DTE Energy made a presentation on the landfill gas project (see attached). He stated that the project enhances gas collection and thereby reduces odors. The facility meets or exceeds all applicable standards for emission controls. The project has been studied and found to present no significant risk to neighbors or landfill workers. They have looked into further emission reductions by an engineering study and upgraded the turbines to the best available by their vendor. The project is an integral part of the solution to the odor problems at the landfill. Mr. Wilkinson explained why the project is an environmentally sound waste management policy.

Ms. Betsy Landis mentioned the Facility and Plan Review Subcommittee had heard the same presentation. The project is capable of handling up to 10,000 cfm of landfill gas. When the landfill reaches its full capacity, it is estimated to produce 20,000 cfm. Therefore, the existing flares will continue to be operated in conjunction with the new gas-to-energy system. The residents of Granada Hills will not benefit from the energy as it will be fed into Southern California Edison's electricity grid.

Ms. Mary Ann Lutz asked if there will be any water discharge. Mr. Wilkinson responded that the system pulls air and does not take in or discharge water. Ms. Landis indicated the output emissions include ambient air pulled in, which adds to the system's particulate matter emissions.

**X. UPDATE ON CALRECYCLE/STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD DRAFT REGULATORY REVISION TO TITLES 14 & 27 OF THE CC**

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa reported a comment letter was sent to CalRecycle on February 8, 2012, regarding the proposed regulation for compositing. On February 9, CalRecycle held a workshop and discussed two key issues. The first was the current definition of food waste. It was determined the definition of food waste is too broad and needs to be broken down and more specific. The current definition requires all food waste to carry a full permit. One of the purposes of the regulation is to simplify the process to encourage composting. Several approaches to simplifying the regulations were discussed including defining subcategories of food waste types and establishing varying degrees of handling protocols so certain types of composting can be distributed to the various committee chairs. The second issue discussed was the disposal and beneficial use of composting material. They are working towards distinguishing compost material as either disposal or beneficial use.

Mike commented that CalRecycle is recommending considering placing a value of 1/10 of 1% contamination amount on a compostable product, which will be monitored by observation only. He stated this is discretionary in determining what is organic and compostable organic, and that placing a numerical value by observation only is difficult to do and regulate.

Mr. Mohajer stated that CalRecycle is emulating what was developed and implemented by Ventura County. Ms. Jennifer Wallin confirmed the methodology, and further explained that they have trained staff that can identify the 1% contamination amounts.

**XI. REPORT FROM CALRECYCLE**

Ms. Jennifer Wallin of CalRecycle gave the following updates from CalRecycle:

Ms. Wallin mentioned that staff from the Long Beach office will be meeting with jurisdictions in Los Angeles and Orange County to go over preliminary plans that may be in the works in relation to mandatory commercial recycling outreach, and for plans for education outreach and monitoring. Ms. Wallin reminded everyone about the workshop next week in Yorba Linda hosted by Western Riverside

Council of Governor. Also on February 27 there is a League of California Cities webinar that will discuss mandatory commercial recycling. Deadline for registration will be February 24th.

Ms. Wallin also gave an update on this month's public meeting and stated on February 21 the comments from the recent 15 day comment period on paint regulations will be discussed. Also, this next month there will be the second Southern California and Northern California meeting in relation to the compost regulations AB 1427 update and which will include a workshop as part of the public meeting. Those who wish to participate can do so online and can e-mail comments. Go to the CalRecycle website [www.calrecycle.ca.gov](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov) for more information. Ms. Wallin also mentioned the opportunity of one grant, Source Reduction Grant, which is due on April 21.

Mr. Mohajer wanted to confirm the composting meeting on February 27, is a public meeting and not only for the stakeholders. Ms. Wallin confirmed the meeting is on the agenda as a public meeting.

## **XII. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 15, in Conference Room B.

## **XIII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Mike Mohajer requested an agenda item for the March meeting regarding hiring interns from the Santa Monica College Recycling and Resource Management certificate programs to assist staff.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

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