

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

Minutes of May 17, 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  
Mike Mohajer, General Public Representative  
Mary Ann Lutz, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division  
Ron Saldana, Los Angeles County Disposal Association (Formerly GLASWMA)  
Eugene Sun, California League of Cities-Los Angeles Division

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPRESENTED BY OTHERS:

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  
Dr. Barry Wallerstein, rep. by Jay Chen, South Coast Air Quality Management District

COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Sam Perdomo, Business/Commerce Representative  
Michael Conway, City of Long Beach  
David Kim, City of Los Angeles  
Gerry Miller, City of Los Angeles  
Mitchell Englander, City of Los Angeles  
Enrique Zaldivar, City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation  
Grace Chan, County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County  
Carl Clark, Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bahman Hajialiakbar, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Corey Mayne, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Tobie Mitchell, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Gabriel Arenas, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Beverly Jones, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Suk Chong, County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works  
Ken Murray, County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health/EH  
Ma H Eaton, County of Los Angeles Sanitation District  
Ram T Romblan, County of Los Angeles Sanitation District  
C. Mann, NVC/GHNNC  
Steve Simmons, Plasco Energy Group  
Becky Bendikson, SCL-CAC  
Wayde Hunter, NVC/GHNNC  
Jennifer Wallin, CalRecycle

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL MINUTES, 2012**

A motion was made by Ms. Betsey Landis to approve March and April minutes as corrected. Mr. Mike Mohajer seconded the motion, and it was passed with one abstention from Mr. Eugene Sun for the April minutes.

**III. REPORT FROM THE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Mike Mohajer reported that during the Public Education and Information Subcommittee meeting they discussed the following articles for the Inside Solid Waste Newsletter: Sustainable Campus Recycling Program; Azusa/Irwindale MRF now called Canyon City Services; Street to Sea Challenge; ASCE Report Card, Solid Waste; CalRecycle AB 341 Workshop on 75% Diversion by 2020; Composting Regulations; Paint Product Stewardship; and Carpet Product Stewardship.

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

Ms. Tobie Mitchell provided the update from the Alternative Technology Advisory Subcommittee. Ms. Mitchell reported that the Subcommittee heard presentations from Scott Miller on the Biofuels Digest biorefinery certification proposal and Plasco Energy Group regarding their projects in Ottawa, Canada and Salinas, California. She added that the County's technical and public outreach consultants provided updates on the progress of their contracts, highlighting the recent meetings organized by the County to visit heads of CalRecycle, California Energy Commission, Air Resources Board, and the Department of Natural Resources. The Subcommittee will be discussing a Conversion Technology Action Plan in more detail at their June meeting.

**V. FACILITY AND PLAN REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ms. Landis reported that the Subcommittee heard a presentation from Architerra Design Group, a landscape architecture firm recently retained by Republic Services, Inc., regarding their ideas to improve vegetation at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. Architerra does not seem to have experience in landfill projects, so the subcommittee asked Architerra to keep them informed on their activities at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill. The Subcommittee also discussed whether or not

the City of Whittier needs to apply for a Finding of Conformance with the Task Force for an expansion proposal at the Savage Canyon Landfill. The Subcommittee concluded that more information is needed before a determination can be made. Finally, the Subcommittee also discussed the preliminary draft of the Countywide Siting Element and directed staff to bring the document back to the Subcommittee for further review in June 2012.

## **VI. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Coby Skye gave an update on the attached legislative table.

- **AB 549 (Carter)**  
The Electronic Waste Recycling Act of 2003 requires a retailer to collect a covered electronic waste recycling fee from the consumer. These fees are deposited in the E-Waste Recovery and Recycling Account, and CalRecycle is required to make payments to an authorized collector or recycler upon receipt of a completed and verified invoice. This bill would additionally require, as a condition of making these payments, that the covered electronic waste is demonstrated to have been generated by a person who used the covered electronic device while located in this state. The bill would specify that covered electronic waste generated outside of the state and subsequently brought into the state is not eligible for payment and would require CalRecycle to establish documentation requirements necessary to demonstrate that covered electronic waste was generated in the state and eligible for payment. Ms. Landis made a motion to oppose unless amended. Mr. Ron Saldana seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- **AB 2196 (Chesbro) and AB 1900 (Gatto)**  
Staff recommend removing the past Task Force position to oppose AB 1900 and to now oppose the co-joined bills AB 1900 and AB 2196 to remove the “four zero” language. Ms. Mary Ann Lutz made a motion to oppose the bill unless amended. Mr. Mohajer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- **AB 2390 (Chesbro)**  
This bill would state legislative findings and declarations regarding the use of waste products from forest thinning and fire prevention activities to generate electricity at biomass facilities. The bill would require the Energy Commission, in consultation with the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to establish an incentive program to compensate producers and collectors of biomass material associated with forest fuel reduction and fire prevention activities that are delivered to eligible biomass facilities, as defined, for use as a fuel source. Staff recommends supporting the bill if amended to include all

technologies. Mr. Mohajer made the motion to support AB 2390, if amended. Ms. Landis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Mohajer discussed AB 2257. The Task Force sent a letter to Sacramento opposing the bill because it usurped local authority. The author contacted Mr. Mohajer and advised him they were no longer pursuing passage of the bill. Mr. Mohajer suggested to the author to come up with a proposal at a local level, and then the Task Force would consider the language next year.

## **VII. CALRECYCLE AB 341 WORKSHOP ON 75% DIVERSION BY 2020**

Ms. Tobie Mitchell provided an update on the May 14, 2012, CalRecycle AB 341 workshop held in Sacramento. A second workshop will be held in Diamond Bar on May 21, 2012. AB 341 establishes a policy goal for California that not less than 75% of the solid waste generated is source-reduced, recycled, or composted by 2020. The law requires that CalRecycle provide a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2014, outlining strategies to achieve the recycling goal. CalRecycle released a white paper that outlines 10 implementation concepts. They are requesting feedback on these concepts from stakeholders. Ms. Mitchell covered five key concerns staff had after reviewing the white paper: 1) monumental structural and legislative proposals are suggested in a six-year timeframe, requiring a significant expenditure of resources by local governments; 2) the white paper labeled many AB 939 diversion activities (such as ADC and transformation) as "disposal-related" and ineligible for recycling credit under AB 341; 3) the new recycling goal continues to base source reduction, recycling, and composting on the old disposal reporting system; 4) it was unclear if recyclables shipped out of the Country would count towards recycling despite the fact that very little is known about the processing of these materials once they leave California; and 5) there was no mention of conversion technologies in the document; however, it appears they will be included with landfills and incineration in a category called "the other 25%".

Ms. Mitchell stated staff's recommendation was to send a letter to CalRecycle expressing these concerns as well as reiterating related Task Force positions. Mr. Mohajer stated that the letter should mention the Task Force's proposed waste hierarchy, reference to previous CalRecycle reports related to conversion technologies, and the need for development of recyclables markets in California.

Mr. Mohajer made a motion to send the letter to CalRecycle. Ms. Landis seconded the motion and it passed with two abstentions from Mr. Jay Chen and Mr. Ron Saldana.

**VIII. UPDATE ON CALRECYCLE/STATE WASTE RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD DRAFT REGULATORY REVISIONS TO TITLES 14 & 27 OF THE CCR (COMPOSTABLE MATERIALS, TRANSFER PROCESSING, & PERMIT EXEMPTIONS)**

Mr. Wu Tan made a presentation on CalRecycle's draft regulatory revisions to Title 14 and 27, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), based on CalRecycle's May 1, 2012, discussion meeting. Out of the 14 issues, Mr. Tan focused on four issues. Issue #1, is that there needs to be a clearer definition for "food waste" as well as other composting definitions, in order to have uniform meaning among the State regulatory agencies and local air districts, and to eliminate ambiguity and regulatory overlap. Also, the proposed definition for "Vegetative Food Material" does not address the type of regulatory measures that would ensure that this type of material is in its natural state without any preservatives and/or cross contamination with animal food material/waste.

Issue #2, identifies a need to more clearly determine when land application should be considered disposal rather than beneficial use. Current regulations identify application of compostable materials, compost, and ash to agricultural land as beneficial use if it meets CDFA requirements. Criteria for determining disposal could be established such as applications greater than one per year, and when organic material application exceeds an average of 12 inches in total depth. Additionally, CalRecycle proposes to use a 0.1% physical contamination maximum threshold which is extremely difficult to measure.

Issue #9, is that the maximum metal concentrations in current regulations do not match US EPA biosolids regulations [503 CFR]. The proposal eliminates Chromium from the list of regulated metals, and also increases the maximum allowable concentration of Selenium in biosolids applied to land. It is recommended to work towards reconciling the differences.

Issue #14, pertains to revisions to the EA notification inspection frequency. Staff has no comments on the following proposed revisions to the EA notification inspection frequency language, "EA inspections every three months unless the EA approves, with CalRecycle's concurrence, a reduced inspection frequency if it poses no additional risk to public health and safety or the environment."

**IX. REPORT FROM CALRECYCLE**

Ms. Jennifer Wallin reported that the regulation supporting the Mandatory Commercial Recycling component of AB 341 was approved by Office of Administrative Law (OAL) on May 7. Ms. Wallin also reported that no changes were made in response to last 15-day comment period with regards to the paint

regulation. Ms. Mortensen approved the proposed regulation, and sent to OAL on May 15. The completion of the PaintCare plan and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review will be around June. PaintCare would have 90 days to begin implementation, so anticipate program implementation by October 1.

In regards to the 75% diversion component of the AB 341 by 2020 policy, CalRecycle encourages stakeholders to review the AB 341 White Paper on their website. There is a form online that can be used to submit comments. The workshops on 5/14 and 5/21 were the first in a series of workshops to discuss ideas first at a high level, and additional workshops will be hosted to discuss ideas in more detail.

#### **X. PLASCO ENERGY GROUP PRESENTATION**

Mr. Steve Simmons from Plasco Energy Group (Plasco), made a powerpoint presentation on the company and its Conversion Technology. Plasco is an innovative technology company that converts post-recycled municipal solid waste into green power and other valuable products. Plasco has the financial capacity to fulfill all funding requirements necessary to construct, build, own, and operate a waste conversion facility. Plasco has an operating pilot facility in Ottawa, Canada and is in the process of constructing a second facility in Canada. Plasco recovers more energy from waste and diverts more waste from landfill than most other forms of conversion technologies. Plasco converts waste into products such as recovered metals, green energy, clean water, and commercial aggregate. Mr. Simmons stated the Plasco project in Salinas California, will improve local air quality and reduce a community's carbon footprint; curb landfill growth and expansion; preserve natural resources for future generations; create local clean-tech jobs; build infrastructure with zero capital from the community; and provide budgetary certainty with predictable tipping fees.

#### **XI. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, in Conference Room B.

#### **XII. OPEN DISCUSSION**

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

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